

Horizon Academy

2026-2027 General Information

Please review carefully as there are changes for the new school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

New Student Testing: Testing for *new students* will take place on **August 5 and 6**. Our principal, Mrs. Semro, will reach out to all new families soon with a SignUpGenius link so you can select a time slot that works best for you.

Parent Information Night for ALL PARENTS via Zoom on Monday, August 10 @ 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
All parents are expected to attend this virtual meeting where we will share valuable information about the school year.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE ROUTINES

Arrival Times:

Early Care: 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. \$ 5-per-day fee, billed at the end of the month based on usage.

All Students Arrive: At 7:50 a.m. The bell rings at 8:00 a.m., after which a student is considered tardy.

Your student's teacher will reach out to you before the start of the school year, so you know your arrival/departure location before the first day of school.

WEDNESDAYS will be late arrival days, starting August 19.

Student arrival time is between **9:20 and 9:25 a.m. every Wednesday.**

Early Care begins at 7:30 a.m. (with the applicable fee for care from 7:30 - 7:55 a.m.).

Interim Care from 7:55 to 9:20 a.m. will be available at no additional charge, allowing families to maintain their morning routine, if desired. Students can select between a designated quiet zone or an active zone (gym).

Departure Times:

- **All students depart at 3:15 p.m. Students not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be taken to Homework Club and will be charged.**
- **After-School Clubs:** 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Additional fees apply. **Students not picked up by 4:30 p.m. will go to Extended Care and will be charged.**
- **Extended Care:** 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (\$8 per day, billed at the end of the month, based on usage)
- **There is no parking in the lot to the right at the end of the front circle drive.** This is the Children's Garden drop-off and pick-up zone only.
- **Cars will only be allowed to turn right into the front circle drive and the east parking lot.** If you try to turn left while heading east, it causes traffic issues. *Please do not block the entrance to the east parking lot while waiting to enter the front circle drive.*
- Students will not be allowed to cross the drive to enter vehicles. Please pull up to the right-hand curb only on the front circle drive. In the east parking lot, students will enter/exit their vehicles from the right side of the vehicles on the sidewalk.
- **Please drive slowly in both the circle drive and the east parking lot for the safety of our students.**
- **CARPOOLS:** *To coordinate a carpool arrival and departure location, please contact the Front Office.*

Pull your car in line at your designated departure location and wait for your student.

Please remain in your vehicle. Our dismissal ends at 3:25 p.m. We appreciate your prompt arrival.

Arrival and departure times should be carefully respected to allow faculty members time to plan for each student. (See Early Care and Extended Care, if needed.)

Students can register for the **After-School Clubs** (quarterly), which are scheduled from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Extended Care** is available from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for students who remain after their club dismisses. Additional fees apply to After-School Clubs and Extended Care.

Early Care arrival, After-School Clubs, and Extended Care departures will occur through the main entrance and front drive.

COMMUNICATION

Please be on the lookout for the electronic **Friday Newsletter, which will be sent out** every Friday during the school year. This communication will provide you with details on school happenings, calendar updates, reminders, weekly SOAR award winners, links for After-School Club sign-ups, and information on school events, among other essential details. It's a concise read that covers everything you need to know as a parent at Horizon Academy.

Please check the website for updates to the calendar.

If you wonder what certain acronyms/terminology at Horizon Academy mean, please refer to this guide: [Horizon Academy Terminology](#)

ISACS PARENT VIRTUAL EDUCATION SERIES / MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Throughout the year, we'll partner with Independent Schools of Central States (ISACS), our accrediting body, to host its **ISACS Parent Series**, a yearlong program of six one-hour webinars designed for parents and caregivers in independent schools. Led by child development, parenting, and education experts, the series focuses on strengthening home-school partnerships and tackling the everyday challenges of raising children. Our counselors will host virtual follow up events a few weeks later to unpack each event.

- **All parents are encouraged to attend.**
- **Each virtual ISACS event will include a post-event virtual discussion and a continued learning session, both hosted by the Horizon Academy counseling team. These events are listed in blue.**
 - **#1 - September 29, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
School Readiness: Executive Function Needed to "Do School" with Sarah Ward
 - **Thursday, October 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: HA Counselors' Discussion Session**
 - **#2 - December 1, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
The Power of Beliefs with Shawn Achor
 - **Thursday, December 10, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Lunch and Learn with HA Counselors**
 - **#3 - January 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
The Family Guide to Screen/Life Balance: What to Do About Tech and Kids with Catherine Price
 - **Thursday, January 21, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Lunch and Learn with HA Counselors**
 - **#4 - February 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
Protecting Your Child in the Age of Deepfakes with Evan Harris
 - **Thursday, February 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: HA Counselors' Discussion Session**
 - **#5 - April 8, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.:**
How Temperament Shapes Who We Become: Why Some Children Need More than Others to Flourish with Aliza Pressman
 - **Thursday, April 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Lunch and Learn with HA Counselors**
 - **#6 - May 4, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
The Power of One with John O'Leary
 - **Thursday, May 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: HA Counselors' Discussion Session**

DRESS CODE / UNIFORM POLICY

In keeping with Horizon Academy's educational purpose, students are expected to dress and groom themselves appropriately. Each student is expected to keep their person and clothing clean and neat. Clothes should be appropriately sized. The following rules will be enforced for all students.

All students are required to dress in accordance with Horizon Academy's policies.

Students may wear unembellished bottoms of their choice.

- Pants, jeans, shorts, sweatpants, skirts, skorts, jumpers, flared yoga pants, leggings, and joggers are permitted--**solid colors only**.
- Clothing should be free of embellishments, rips, or tears and fully cover the backside.
- Shorts, skirts, or skorts may NOT be “rolled down” at the waist.
- The length of shorts and/or skirts must be equal to or longer than the fingertip of the individual while standing in a relaxed position.
- **Students in grades 6-9 may wear HA flannel pajama bottoms purchased from the link below with the Horizon Academy logo.**

SHIRTS

- **MUST have Horizon Academy logo**
- **NAVY, RED, CHARCOAL GRAY**
- **Horizon Academy shirt from the previous school year or summer session.**

SWEATSHIRTS, HOODIES, and ¼ ZIP SWEATSHIRTS

- **MUST have Horizon Academy logo**
- **CHARCOAL GRAY, NAVY, or RED**

Please label all jackets, sweatshirts, etc., with your student's name.

Here is the link to the HA uniform source: <https://horizonacademy.myprostores.com/>

FOOTWEAR

Our students are constantly active, navigating busy stairwells, participating in recess, and working in science and makerspace. Proper footwear ensures physical safety and full participation in our daily Routines.

- **Allowed Footwear:** Secure, closed-toe shoes with a fixed, structured heel. Traditional athletic sneakers, tennis shoes, or sturdy closed-toe flats and boots are required.
- **Highly Recommended:** Because daily physical activity is a core part of our curriculum, we strongly encourage students to wear traditional athletic sneakers every day. Students may keep an extra pair of tennis shoes in their locker for P.E. class if they generally prefer wearing other school-approved shoes to school.
- **Prohibited Footwear:** Flip-flops, slides, slippers, and all foam clogs or **Crocs** must be **left at home**. These loose-fitting styles lack heel support, increase the risk of slips and trips on hard floors, and prevent safe physical play.

COATS AND HEADWEAR

- Coats and hats are only permitted when entering or exiting the building and must be placed in lockers before entering classrooms. Students may wear sweatshirts or hoodies with the Horizon Academy logo while in the building during the school day.

COLD WEATHER EXPECTATIONS

- When the temperature is below 32 degrees outside, students are expected to wear appropriate outerwear and must wear long pants or leg coverings for recess.

FAMILY DAYS provide students the opportunity to wear their school-supplied **FAMILY t-shirt**. Parents will be notified in advance of these days. Family Days will typically be the last Wednesday of each month (*with the exception of November, December, and May - Please see the school calendar*).

Students may wear their school-supplied FAMILY t-shirt OR any other Horizon Academy t-shirt any day of the week.

SPIRIT DAYS are non-uniform days; however, student dress must be appropriate and tasteful. Skirts and shorts should not be higher than 2 inches above the knee; shirts should be long enough to cover the navel; and no spaghetti-strap shirts. Parents will be notified in advance of these days.

ACCESSORIES / DRESS CODE

To help maintain a focused learning environment, student accessories should be kept simple and limited. In addition to earrings, students may wear no more than two accessory items (e.g., a necklace, bracelet, watch, or hair accessory).

Accessories that may be distracting or disruptive to the educational setting are not permitted, including but not limited to hats worn indoors, excessive bracelets or necklaces, and novelty items that draw undue attention. School administration reserves the right to determine whether an accessory is appropriate for the school environment.

GROOMING

- Hair must be kept clean and appropriate for school; it must be kept out of the eyes.
- Extremes in grooming are not allowed.
- **Make-up and jewelry** should be appropriate for a positive learning environment.
- **Perfumes** - Students should refrain from wearing strong-scented products, including but not limited to colognes, aftershave lotions, perfumes, deodorants, body and face lotions, and/or hair sprays. These products should be left at home.

If a student violates the dress code expectations, they will be sent to the office and provided with an appropriate alternative, which must be returned by the end of the school day. If this is a recurring event, a conference may be scheduled.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT UPDATES

WATER BOTTLE EXPECTATIONS

Staying hydrated keeps brains sharp and bodies energized. To maintain a focused environment and protect expensive classroom technology, water bottles follow a structured campus routine.

- **School-Provided Only:** All student water bottles will be provided by Horizon Academy. These bottles are completely clear and transparent to streamline school check-ins.
- **Water Only:** Bottles must contain plain water only. To support healthy habits, outside beverages such as sodas, juices, flavored coffees, and energy drinks are not permitted in the classroom.
- **Countertop "Parking Spaces":** Water bottles are kept in a designated counter zone rather than on student desks. This prevents accidental, catastrophic spills on devices like Chromebooks and iPads, and stops heavy bottles from causing disruptive noises when knocked onto hard floors. Students have ample, built-in opportunities to drink during natural lesson transitions and brain breaks.

FIDGETS AND SENSORY TOYS

Sensory regulation is necessary for focus, anxiety reduction, and learning optimization. To ensure fidget items are tools rather than distractions, we maintain strict boundaries around sensory gear.

- **School-Supplied Only:** Students may not bring personal fidgets, toys, or sensory items from home.
- **Vetted by Experts:** Classrooms are fully equipped with a curated selection of silent sensory tools vetted and approved by the Occupational Therapist (OT). This ensures equitable access to effective tools while keeping desks free of personal toy distractions.

RECESS EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Recess is a vital time for social-emotional growth and unstructured play. To ensure student safety, promote inclusive play, and eliminate classroom distractions, personal playground gear must be left at home.

- **No Outside Toys or Equipment:** Students may not bring personal toys, trading cards, playground balls, or sports equipment from home.
- **Fair Play & Inclusion:** Shared, school-issued equipment eliminates "gatekeeping" or arguments over personal property ownership, ensuring every student has equal access to games.
- **Protecting Belongings:** Leaving personal items at home prevents valuable items from being lost, broken, or stolen, saving emotional energy for learning.
- **Fully Stocked Recess Bins:** Horizon provides rotating recess bins packed with PE-vetted and OT-approved gear, including standard sports balls, jump ropes, skip-its, hula hoops, and sidewalk chalk.

ILLNESS / TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASE: PROTOCOLS AND FACEMASKS

Please do not send your student if they are sick, displaying symptoms, or have experienced direct exposure to COVID or other highly transmissible diseases. Please allow 24 hours for your student to be fever-free and follow all protocols for other transmissible or contagious illnesses (pink eye, lice, etc.). Should a student arrive with a fever or symptoms, the

student will be sent home. Should a student develop symptoms while at school, they may be asked to wear a face mask to protect others in the lead-up to departure.

Thank you for your partnership and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe, predictable, and high-impact learning environment for our students!