

# Helms Elementary

MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

11/01/2021



## Month at a Glance

Dear Parents and Students,

Another month of great learning has happened thanks to your continued support. Our annual Helms PTA auction was a huge success, and we appreciate everyone who made this possible.

Tutorials have started. Remember in accordance with HB4545 our tutorials will focus on students who were not successful in the 2021 spring STAAR administration and students who are considered Tier III.

We have started attendance meetings, home visits and communication with parents regarding students with chronic absenteeism. Our daily average attendance is currently at 93.4%, and we have to work as a team to get this average up.

### Safety and Health

**COVID-19 Positive Case Notifications:** In alignment with TEA requirements, all students and staff in the same class as a COVID-19 confirmed positive individual will be notified of the positive case, regardless of contact status (i.e., close contact, non-close contact, etc). Identified close contacts will receive additional communication with next steps.

### **Update on Contact Definition**

**Close Contact:** Individuals who are less than six feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) from two days before illness onset (or two days prior to test specimen collection for asymptomatic individuals), until the time the patient is isolated.



## Important Dates

11/10/2021 – Picture Retakes

11/11/2021 – Parent Session  
presented by UH 8:30am

11/12/21 – Coffee with Principal  
8:30am, in person event;  
5:00pm Q&A virtual event

11/13/2021 – Wraparound  
Heights Fall Festival (flyer  
attached)

11/13/2021 – Campus open for  
help with middle school  
applications, 8:00am-1:00pm

11/18/2021 – Deadline to submit  
school choice magnet  
applications.

11/22-26/21 – Thanksgiving  
Break



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## **Communication**

Our next Coffee with the Principal is scheduled for Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. The plan is to host this event in person, [click here to sign up](#). A virtual Q & A will happen in the evening from 5:00pm – 5:30pm. Link to join will be sent on Living Tree.



## **Upcoming Events**

Picture retakes will happen on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. If you have questions, please contact the front office.

One of our interns from University of Houston, will be presenting a workshop for parents on how to best help our children be successful students. Workshop will happen Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-9:30am.

Gifted and Talented testing for Kinder, Fifth and those not previously identified will take place from November 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Parents can request GT testing for First through Fourth grades, however requests have to be made by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Questions and requests for GT, contact Ms. Julie Hernandez.

Deadline to submit school choice applications for grade K-12 and to apply for magnet middle schools is November 18, 2021. Parents that need assistance with applications for middle school are welcome to come on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-1:00pm. [Click on link here to start the application process.](#)

## **Social Emotional Learning**

November is here with a theme of “New Ways for November”. Ms. Chavez would like to share a calendar with ideas to encourage us all to try something new.

[Click here for calendar](#)

Sincerely,

Alexander Gonzalez  
Helms Principal

