



China Elementary School

605 Henderson Ave. @ U.S. Hwy 90 P. O. Box 398
China, TX. 77613
(409) 981-6410 FAX (409) 752-3623
www.hjisd.net

Sandra Sherman, Principal

Dianne Timberlake, Asst. Principal

October 10, 2014

Dear Parents,

We have now had seven weeks of school. Things are working well on our campus. China Elementary is growing. We now have 443 students. We ended the year with 420 students. We are delighted to welcome new students to our campus. It is exciting to have new personnel as well as new students. We are having a great time getting to know everyone. It is still such a joy to enter this beautiful new campus that patrons have provided for the children of our community. We thank you every day for these facilities.

New personnel: We are so glad to be able to announce that we have hired two teachers. Our K classes and our 2nd grade classes were very crowded. By adding another classroom to these two grades, our students will benefit greatly from the lower number of students per class. Mrs. Theresa Benoit is our new K teacher and Mrs. Paulette Emerson will be the new 2nd grade math/science teacher.

Ms. Julie, our receptionist for many years, is now working as receptionist at Hardin-Jefferson High School. We have hired Ms. Traci Miller to be our new receptionist. Mrs. Miller's first day at China Elementary was Oct. 9. Be sure to welcome her and introduce yourself as you check in. We thank you in advance for your patience in this transition. We ask that you please provide your driver's license or photo ID so that she can check you in properly.

There are few changes in Food Service. We are proud to announce that we have the best kind of Food Service Director, the home-grown kind. Courtney Sundgren Wilson has been employed by Chartwells. Courtney attended CE and graduated from HJ before getting her degree from LU. Our district website has the menu posted, and you may pay online for your child's lunches. Food service does not sell snacks. We will sell ice cream on Fridays to students in grades 2-5 only. Parents and visitors wishing to have lunch with their children will sit at the visitors table. Because of food allergies and special dietary restrictions, friends of students will not be able to join your student at the visitor's table.

Keep-N-Track System: After our safety audit this summer, we find it necessary to make a few changes. If you plan to walk your child to the cafeteria or to class, you must check in with Mrs. Corbello and get a Visitor's Badge. Every visitor in our building MUST have one of these badges, even if you do not intend to stay. Please remember that you will need your driver's license to check in.

Reminders from our Transportation Department: This year we have asked that our buses enter and leave the campus through our east entrance and exit on Henderson Ave. to South China Rd. and use the controlled intersection at Hwy 90. If all other vehicle traffic would use the west entrance off of Hwy 90 to enter and exit our campus, vehicles and buses would not have to cross paths. We constantly monitor the traffic and are very concerned about the safety of our students and their parents. We realize that we have a unique situation but with cooperation and patience, we are sure that no one will be hurt, nor will there ever be an accident that involves any of our buses or cars.

HARDIN JEFFERSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellent Community Superior Education

Henderson Avenue is a city street. All traffic laws are in effect. Vehicles parking on either side of Henderson Avenue prevent emergency vehicles getting through. Sheriffs Department personnel and the Precinct 1 constable will be checking traffic flow mornings and afternoons to help us follow all laws.

The drop-off/pick-up lanes are one-way only. Please do not enter into the visitor's parking lot from the exit being used by car drop-off/pick-up traffic. If you want to park in the visitor's parking spots, you will need to enter from the far west side of the parking lot. We will have the one-way arrows repainted soon so that they will be more easily seen.

We have new personnel and lots of new children. For safety reasons, we ask that all parents stay in their cars and use the car pickup line to retrieve their children. Parents should display a placard that hangs from the rear view mirror identifying the child(ren) to be picked up. If you do not have a placard, we will be happy to make you one. If you do not like sitting in the car line, you might try coming 10 minutes later. There is very little line at that time. In cases where a parent finds it necessary to park and come in to get a child, we ask that the parent always ask the receptionist to check the child out with our Keep-n-Track system. Please do not come and get your child from the covered area without checking him/her out. We want to make sure that we can account for every child. If you must check a child out early, please park in the Visitor's Parking area only. We ask that you not park on either side of Henderson Avenue or in the parking lot next to the gated area next to the cafeteria.

Absences: Our TxEIS program automatically prints a letter to parents when a child has 5, 8 and 10 absences. These letters will be sent when printed. Texas attendance law states that students must attend 90% of the 180 school days to receive credit for the school year, which means that they must not miss more than 18 days for the entire year. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. We will hold attendance hearings after the 10th absence. The district-adopted curriculum, Texas Resource System, is very hands-on and uses active learning strategies. Students who miss class will miss those experiences, which will limit them in learning future concepts that depend on former learning. Good school attendance ensures that students have every opportunity to master grade level TEKS required for promotion to the next grade.

iPhones: For all those lucky persons who are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your new iPhone 6, remember your old cell phones can be recycled. The recycling program for empty ink cartridges also gives us credit for cell phones. So please send the old ones to us. Ms. Easley will box them up and send them on.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children. Feel free to bring to us any questions or concerns.

Sandra Sherman, Principal

Dianne Timberlake, Asst. Principal

It's a great day to be a HAWK!!

HARDIN JEFFERSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellent Community Superior Education