

Signal Hill School

Student Handbook 2023-2024

33 Signal Hill Drive
Voorhees, NJ 08043
856-767-6749

Main Office/Principal	Ext. 0
Report Absences	Ext. 2
Nurse's Office	Ext. 3
Guidance Office	Ext. 4

www.voorhees.k12.nj.us

Mrs. Lauren M. Salls,
Principal



Signal Hill School

General Information

Welcome to Signal Hill School! The following information pertains to regular school days.

Telephone Voice Mail System

Signal Hill School is equipped with a voice mail system. Calls to individual teachers during the day will go directly to the teacher's mailbox. Voice mail messages to teacher mailboxes are not retrieved until the end of the school day.

If you need to notify the school of a change in your child's schedule, please speak to one of the secretaries in the main office instead of using the teacher's mailbox.

Regular School Hours

Signal Hill School classes for students in grades kindergarten through fifth begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:25 p.m.

Early Dismissal days are scheduled throughout the year. On these days lunch will be served and dismissal for kindergarten through fifth grade students is 1:40 p.m. Refer to school ongoing information for other hours.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

The front circular driveway is closed to all cars each morning and afternoon during drop off and pick up times.

A.M. Drop Off – Students who are dropped off by car in the morning are to use the "Car Line" lane by the playground. Please drop students off anywhere along the sidewalk in front of the playground area.

P.M. Pick Up – After school pick-up of students begins at approximately 3:30 p.m. along the sidewalk area by the playground. All cars should enter the "Car Line" through the driveway closest to Rt. 73. Please do not cut off cars who are already in the line. **Students are not permitted to be picked-up along Signal Hill Drive.**

School Dismissal Plan

Voorhees Township Board of Education Policy 8601, "*Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal*," outlines a specialized dismissal procedure for parents requiring specialized

supervision for their children. Please read the entire online policy made available on the first day of school.

Arrival Time

Supervision of the school grounds begins at 8:40 a.m. each day. Students are not to arrive prior to that time. Students are to report to their line-up areas upon arrival and will be admitted to the building at the 8:55 bell during a normal school year. **Students are not to walk through the parking lot.**

Parents and guardians who need to drop their children off earlier than 8:40 a.m. should contact CER for information on their Before and After School Child Care Program.

Regular Early Dismissal

Parent requests for an occasional early dismissal must be given **in writing**, stating the time of dismissal and the person responsible for picking up the child. Parents are to report to the office at the requested early dismissal time and sign out their child. Students must attend school for at least four instructional hours in order to be counted present for a whole day. Any early dismissal prior to 1:30 p.m. will count as a half day absence.

Late Arrival

The school day begins at 9:00 a.m. and all students are expected to be in their classrooms at that time. Any student who arrives after 9:00 a.m. must report to the office. The student will then be recorded on the School Register as **Tardy**. Students who are tardy more than ten times will receive notification from the office. A meeting may then be held with the teacher, principal, and parents to develop a plan to assist the student in arriving on time. Any late arrival after 10:50 a.m. will count as a half day absence.

Attendance

Regular attendance in school is essential to student success. On occasion, students may be absent from school due to illness, religious holiday, or family emergency. All absences must be reported by the parent/guardian to the school nurse by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the absence. The school phone system is available 24 hours a day for parent calls. The School Messenger automated calling system will

call parents of students who are unaccounted for. Following an absence of one or more days, parents must submit a written note outlining the dates and reason for absence.

Illness in School

In the event of a child becoming ill during school, the child will be sent to the nurse. If the school nurse feels that the child is too sick to remain in school, she will notify the parent or emergency contact(s) listed on the Emergency Card on file. All parents must provide an emergency back-up telephone number in the event that they cannot be reached. Please keep this contact information up to date. Please note that a student with a temperature may not return to school until his/her temperature has remained normal for 24 hours.

Medication Policy

State and Board of Education directives dictate the school district's medication policy. If, under exceptional circumstances, a child is required to take oral medication during school hours, the **parent** must bring the prescribed medicine to school. The school nurse will administer the medication in compliance with the following regulations:

Written instructions signed by the parent and the physician must include:

1. child's name
2. name of medication
3. purpose of medication
4. dosage
5. time to be administered
6. termination date for administering the medication

Non-prescription medications such as aspirin, Tylenol, cough/cold medicine will not be administered without the written instructions of a physician and the parent.

Request for Missed Work

After a student is absent from school **for three or more consecutive days due to illness**, the parent may call the school office or guidance counselor to request missed work. Please indicate if the work is to be sent home with another student or if the parent will pick it up at the end of the school day. When a student has been absent due to illness and returns to school, the teacher will give the student one day for each day absent to make-up any tests.

Excessive Absences

Students absent 10 or more consecutive days will need to be re-enrolled upon returning to school. Ten or more frequent absences from school in a year will warrant a notice from the principal. A plan of action will be determined for improved attendance.

Extended Absences

Families are encouraged to take vacation in the summer or during school breaks. Authentic learning experiences of the school day cannot be replaced by alternative reading or writing assignments. Teachers are not responsible for assigning and grading work for a student to complete during the trip that is scheduled during a normal school day.

Telephone or Address Change

Parents are asked to notify the Signal Hill School office immediately when a change in address or telephone number occurs. Any changes to your work phone number or emergency back-up contact should also be forwarded to the school office.

Report Cards

Students in grades kindergarten through five will receive report cards four times a year: November, February, April, and the last day of school.

Student performance in grades two through five is measured using the following grading guidelines:

A = 100-92	B = 91-83	C = 82-74
D = 73-65	F = 64 & below	I = Incomplete

Parent Conferences

Formal Parent Conferences are scheduled in December. Conference sign-up sheets will be provided to parents at Back to School Night in September. Parents are encouraged to call their child's teacher whenever they have a question concerning their child or the program.

Regular Lunch

Lunch is served daily by the school's cafeteria staff. Students may choose to purchase lunch from two selections or they may bring their own lunch. The daily cost for lunch is posted on the district website. Lunches can be prepaid using the district's school payment portal. Information on this automated prepayment service is available on-line at www.voorhees.k12.nj.us.

Families that would like to receive meal assistance for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please click on [this link](#) for information.

School Attire

All students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Signal Hill is an air-conditioned building; therefore, tank tops with straps less than 2 inches wide, spaghetti straps, camisoles, halters, bare midriffs, skirts and shorts shorter than finger tip length, etc. are not acceptable or appropriate for school. Clothing that contains any imprinted inappropriate vocabulary or pictures are not allowed. Outdoor clothing, such as coats, hats, etc., is not to be worn inside the school building. Closed shoes or sneakers are recommended for outdoor recess.

Students are to wear comfortable clothing and sneakers on the day they are scheduled for physical education.

Textbooks

All students are issued textbooks each September. Hardback textbooks must be covered with a **paper book cover**. Scotch tape, masking tape, contact paper, or any other sticky coverings are **not** to be used. All textbooks must be returned in good condition before final report cards are issued. Parents will be billed for lost or damaged textbooks at their replacement cost.

Telephone Use

Students are not permitted to use cellphones in school or on buses. Student telephone use is limited to the office and /or classroom telephones with the permission of their teacher. Students traveling to and from school with a personal cell phone must turn the cell phone off when entering the school. Cell phones must be turned off and stored in the student's backpack

during the school day. Smart watches are to also follow these procedural restrictions.

Instrumental Lessons

Students in grades four and five may elect to participate in the Instrumental Music Program. Lessons for string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments are given once a week by the school's music department. Students selecting to participate in this program should do so with the understanding that learning to play an instrument requires daily practice and dedication. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and complete any classroom work missed during instrumental lessons.

Students are responsible for remembering to bring their instrument to school on their assigned lesson day and band practice day. Telephone calls home will not be allowed to retrieve instruments.

Student Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation outline student behavior in the Voorhees Schools. Policy 5600 is sent home to parents on the first day of school. More detailed information on the Code of Conduct Regulation can be found by clicking this link [Code of Conduct Regulation](#).

Regulation 5512, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, is sent home to parents the first day of school. More detailed information on the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy can be found by clicking this link [Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#).

General Rules for Student Conduct

The following list represents additional Rules for Student Conduct at Signal Hill:

1. Students will walk quietly in the halls.
2. Students will speak and behave respectfully to all school staff.
3. Students will speak and behave respectfully toward each other. Behavior that is considered to be harassment will not be tolerated.
4. Students will keep hands, feet, and all objects to themselves at all times.
5. Students will not use fighting as a means to

- solve conflicts.
6. Students will respect school property by not destroying or defacing it in any way.
 7. Students will use appropriate language. Vulgar language or use of profanity will not be permitted.
 8. Students will show respect by not wearing hats, bandannas, or scarves inside the school building.
 9. Students will not bring toys, headsets, electronic games, or audio/video equipment to school for safety reasons.
 10. Students will use assigned bathrooms appropriately.

Disciplinary Guidelines

To foster the health, safety, social, and emotional well being of students, Voorhees Township Board of Education Policy #5600, Code of Conduct, outlines specific consequences for inappropriate behavior. The following list of consequences will also be applied for students not adhering to school rules.

1. Teacher reprimand/warning (1st offense)
2. Student time-out (2nd offense)
3. Removal from the activity (3rd offense)
4. Parent notification (4th offense)
5. Referral to the principal (severe offense)
6. After School detention
7. Suspension – Principal
8. Possible notification to local law enforcement if involved in an incident resulting in physical injury

Students can be assigned After School Detention for the following:

1. Lack of completed homework/class work
2. Repeated misbehaviors on the playground
3. Destruction/abuse of school property
4. Repeated disrespect of authority
5. As assigned by the principal
6. As assigned by the Bus Coordinator

Bus Rules

Only students residing in Board of Education bus transportation areas may ride a bus to and from school. Students may only ride the bus to which they have been assigned. Rules for bus behavior are as follows:

1. Take a seat immediately and remain in the seat until the bus arrives at the assigned stop.
2. The bus aisles must be kept clear at all times, therefore, hands, feet, book bags, personal belongings, etc. must be kept out of the aisle.
3. Nothing is to be put out of the bus window.
4. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
5. All directions given by the bus driver are to be followed.
6. Students riding buses **must** wear seat belts at all times while riding the bus.
7. Cell phone usage is not permitted while riding the bus.

Remember, riding the bus is a privilege and inappropriate behavior may result in a loss of this privilege. The School Bus Coordinator will notify parents when written warnings for rule infractions are given. Students may lose bus riding privileges following three written reports for rule infractions.

Bicycle Rules

Students in grades three, four, and five may ride their bicycles to school if they have reviewed the following rules with their parents, agreed on a safe route, and returned the signed Bicycle Safety Rules form to school.

1. Signal Hill bicycle riders must comply with the State of New Jersey's helmet law.
2. Bicycle riders and their parents must agree to a "safe route" **both to and from school**. Bicycle riders are required to ride with traffic when using the street. This may not be the safest route and parents may wish to have their child use the sidewalks.
3. Students riding on the street are to stay close to the curb and ride in single file.
4. Students riding on the sidewalk are always to yield to walkers.
5. Bicycle riders must stop and follow the directions of the School Crossing Guards.
6. Bicycle riders must observe posted STOP signs.
7. ALL BICYCLES MUST BE WALKED between Brookview Drive and the school driveway.

Special School Events

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is held each September to provide parents with an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and get a brief overview of the curriculum and classroom routines. This is an evening designed for parents and we request that children not attend.

Spring Concerts

Musical concerts featuring students in various grades will be held in the spring. An instrumental concert featuring our Beginner and Advanced Bands and String Orchestra will also be presented. Information about the performances will be sent home.

Fun and Fitness Day

Each year a day in June is devoted to physical fitness and fun. Students in kindergarten through fifth grades are divided into two teams, the Red and the White. The grades move between five fields of games and competition. All participants receive a blue or red ribbon at the end of this special day.

Signal Hill Parent Faculty Association SHPFA

The Signal Hill Parent Faculty Association (SHPFA) brings together parents, administrators, teachers, and staff of Signal Hill School. Our mission is to maximize the academic experience for all Signal Hill School students using five clear objectives:

- **Sharing** in the responsibility to make Signal Hill School a center of academic excellence for every student it serves;
- **Highlighting** and facilitating the value of positive and responsive communications between home and school;
- **Promoting** school spirit and a sense of community through social activities;
- **Fundraising** to sustain and enhance the Signal Hill academic needs and goals of all students;
- **Advocating** on behalf of Signal Hill in communications with the Board of Education

Contacting SHPFA

Your ideas and thoughts are always welcome. Please email the SHPFA Board at signalhillpfa@gmail.com. You can follow SHPFA on Facebook.

SHPFA Membership

Membership in SHPFA is open to every Signal Hill staff member and family. Membership forms will be distributed in September and available at other events. Membership is strongly encouraged and offers you an active voting voice. All SHPFA Officers, Room Parents, and volunteers are active SHPFA members.

SHPFA Meetings

SHPFA will meet three times during the school year. In addition to hearing about upcoming SHPFA events, these meetings are an opportunity for parents to learn about and discuss key policy and funding issues relevant to Signal Hill School. Meeting dates will be posted on the Signal Hill School and SHPFA websites.

SHPFA Events

SHPFA holds many events during the school year. A complete list will be advertised each year. We appreciate all of SHPFA's efforts and welcome parents to volunteer for these events.