



## Frequently Asked Questions 2023-2024

### Q. What are the school hours?

A. Heron Heights begins instruction at 8:00am and ends at 2:00pm. Students can begin coming into the building at 7:30am for breakfast or they can sit and read next to their classroom in the hallway.

### Q. How do I drop my child off at school?

A. The main car line gate on Pine Island Road and the pedestrian walkway gate (on Nob Hill) both open at 7:30am daily. Gates are monitored as students arrive and locked and/or monitored after arrival.

### Q. Is there a school bus for my neighborhood?

A. Heron Heights does not determine bus transportation, it is determined by the Transportation Department. State policy mandates that you live more than 2 miles from the school to be provided bus transportation. Bus passes can be viewed online by visiting [www.browardschools.com/virtualcounselor](http://www.browardschools.com/virtualcounselor) prior to school starting. Your child will receive a color band that correlates with their bus color if they are eligible for a bus.

### Q. Can I walk my child to class?

A. Kindergarten parents can walk their child to class on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. Independence Day for students is the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school. Students will walk “independently” to class on Independence Day. Staff and volunteers will be available to assist students walking to class.

### Q. How are students dismissed from school?

A. Dismissal begins at 1:55pm. All students wait in their classrooms until the dismissal route is called. Students’ backpacks are tagged with a color designating their dismissal route. **Car riders** are dismissed via an electronic carline system called Curb Smart. Every parent will receive a carline tag with a number associated with their child. Once you enter the school parking lot, the number will be entered into a database and your child will come outside. Please pick up your child promptly at 2:00pm. **Bus students** are dismissed by their bus color. Attendance is also taken daily at the entrance to each bus. **HHE Aftercare** students are dismissed to their aftercare area. Kindergarten students are picked up by the Aftercare Counselors and escorted to the cafeteria to start the program. **Private Aftercare** students will wait in a designated area until they are picked up.

### Q. What if I need to change my child’s dismissal?

A. Please submit a Change of Dismissal form to the office if you need to change your child’s dismissal. This form can be found on our website under the “Parents” tab. If you need to change your child’s dismissal after 8:00am, you must email the completed Change of Dismissal Form with a copy of your drivers license to the following address: [HeronHeightsES@browardschools.com](mailto:HeronHeightsES@browardschools.com). Please then call the front office

to confirm we have received your form. We are unable to take any dismissal changes after 1pm.

**Q. Is there an aftercare program?**

A. Heron Heights is proud to offer a School Board Operated Aftercare program. We offer Before Care from 6:30am - 7:30am and After Care from 2:00pm - 6:00pm. Students in the program participate in a variety of activities including computers, game room, reading, cooking, science, math, outside time, homework help, and games. Check our school website for more information and pricing.

**Q. What extracurricular activities does the school provide?**

A. Academic clubs at Heron Heights Elementary include debate, math, and robotics. We also have competitive math teams in grades 4 and 5 that compete in the annual BCCTM competition. We also offer chorus, color guard and student council.

**Q. What are the cafeteria procedures?**

A. Students have 30 minutes for lunch in the cafeteria. They are supervised during lunch by cafeteria monitors, not classroom teachers. Students should become as independent as possible with opening up their lunch items and cleaning up after themselves.

**Q. How do I do put money on my child's lunch account?**

A. All students have an electronic lunch account. The student ID cards are connected to their account and used in the lunch line for students to purchase lunch. Parents can put money on a student's account by visiting [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). The funds can be used for lunch and ala carte items.

**Q. What special classes does the school provide?**

A. Music, Art, Media, Physical Education and STEM

**Q. Do you have a school nurse?**

A. Yes, Heron Heights has a full time nurse to give TLC (Tender Loving Care) and make the children comfortable. She can check temperatures, apply ice, apply bandages, and provide simple first aid.

**Q. How do I volunteer in my child's classroom?**

A. Teachers determine the number of volunteers they need in their classrooms. All volunteers must complete an online registration form every year and be cleared to volunteer as required by the Jessica Lunsford Act. To become a volunteer, apply online through [browardschools.com/volunteer](http://browardschools.com/volunteer) in August for the upcoming school year. You must be a cleared volunteer to assist in the school.

**Q. Does the school have a website?**

A. Yes, [browardschools.com/heronheights](http://browardschools.com/heronheights). This site is updated frequently with school information. Visit the site weekly for updates.

**Q. Is Heron Heights on social media?**

A. Yes, please “like” Heron Heights Elementary, Parkland FL on Facebook and follow Mrs. Weiss-Schnur @PrincipalHHE on Twitter.

**Q. What security staff is on site?**

A. Heron Heights is staffed with two full time campus security monitors and two full time BSO School Resources Officers.

**Q. How can I communicate with my child’s teacher?**

A. The most effective way is by email or by calling the main office to leave a message. Many teachers use communication apps such as Bloomz, Remind and Class Dojo for class updates. Progress Reports are sent home every nine weeks and each teacher will schedule two parent conferences during the school year.

**Q. What curriculum is used?**

A. All Broward schools are required to follow the BEST Standards. More information on the elementary curriculum and resources can be found by visiting the School Board of Broward County Elementary Learning website <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13466>.

**Q. How are students placed in each kindergarten class?**

A. We use a variety of criteria to place students in classes. Staff reviews the student birth month, exceptionalities, second languages, gender and kindergarten information sheet when creating balanced classes. The kindergarten student information sheet is available for every parent to complete. Please be as specific as possible about your child’s ability, interests and personality. We DO NOT take teacher requests. We will offer a kindergarten academic screening in August. Date is TBD.

**Q. When will the multiage application be available?**

A. The 2023-2024 Multiage Information Session is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> @6:00pm. Applications for the program will be available on our school website the next day.

**Q. How does the school place multiples (Twins/Triplets/etc.) in classes?**

A. State policy provides parents the opportunity to have siblings placed together or in separate classes. Please provide your desire about your multiples placement by filling out a **Multiples Placement Form**. You can pick up the form in the front office.

**Q. What can I do to prepare my child for Kindergarten?**

A. Please work with your child to independently exit the car from the passenger side. It would be helpful if they can learn how to zip and unzip their backpacks as well as tie their shoes. They should also practice opening lunch items, water bottles, buckling and zipping their pants.