



Harrisburg Global Academy

A K-8 Tuition Free Public Charter School



August 14, 2026,

Dear HGA Families,

The countdown is on — the first day of school is almost here, and this one is truly historic! As our founding families, you are part of something special: the very first school year at HGA, in our brand-new building. Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing to open our doors for the very first time, and we could not be more excited to welcome your children in and make history together. Here's everything you need to know for a fantastic start to our inaugural year!

Teachers Are Calling the Week of August 17th

Keep an eye on your phone! Our teachers will be calling families during the week of August 17th to introduce themselves and share important classroom information. We can't wait for you to meet them.

Transportation Update: Bus route information has been sent out to families! A few helpful reminders as we get rolling:

- **Please allow some time for routes to settle** during the first days of school; pick-up and drop-off times may adjust slightly as routes are fine-tuned.
- **Arrive at your bus stop 10 minutes early** to make sure your student never misses the bus.
- **Download the "Where's My Bus" app** to track your child's bus in real time.

If you have any questions or concerns about your student's route, please reach out to our transportation partner at contact@olympictransportation.net.

Lunch Menus & Online Payments

Our monthly lunch menus and online lunch payment system are live on our website! Visit [www.hgacharter.org](https://hgacharter.org) to view menus and add funds to your child's lunch account anytime.



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Uniform Grace Period

We know many families are still waiting on uniform orders to arrive. No worries! We will allow a two-week grace period at the start of the school year for students who have not yet received their uniforms. Please have your students dress neatly in school colors until their uniforms arrive.

Footwear reminder: All students should wear sneakers or closed-toe shoes to school every day.

Bell Times & Car Pool Procedures

Please note the following times so your student starts each day on time:

- **Grades 3–6:** School begins at **7:45 AM** and dismisses at **2:45 PM**. Carpool begins at **7:15 AM**, and students are marked **tardy after 7:45 AM**.
- **Grades K–2:** School begins at **8:30 AM** and dismisses at **3:30 PM**. Carpool begins at **8:00 AM**, and students are marked **tardy after 8:30 AM**.
- **Have students in both groups?** Families with a student in Grades 3–6 *and* one in K–2 may drop off both students at the earlier time and pick up both at the later time, so you only go through the carpool line once.

For everyone's safety, we ask that all families remain in their vehicles during both drop-off and dismissal. Our staff will be on hand to help students in and out of cars and get them where they need to go. Please have your **car tag clearly displayed** during pick-up.

First Day Drop-Off Procedures

To keep our first morning safe and running smoothly, only Kindergarten parents will be allowed to park and walk their students in on the first day of school. All other families will drop off students in the carpool line and remain in their vehicles. Thank you for helping us start the year off safely — our staff will be ready to greet every student with a smile and guide them to their classrooms!

What to Bring (and What to Leave at Home)



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Help your student have a smooth first day with these reminders:

- **Lunch** — Pack a lunch or be prepared to buy lunch at school. Please note that students will **not** be able to microwave lunches, so pack accordingly.
- **Water bottle** — A labeled, refillable water bottle is encouraged.
- **Cell phones** — Should be left at home or turned off and kept in bookbags during the school day.
- **No toys** — Please leave toys at home so everyone can stay focused on learning.

Download the BrightArrow App

The BrightArrow app will be our main form of communication this year — please download it now so you never miss important news, updates, or alerts from the school. While you're at it, please make sure your emergency contact information is up to date so we can always reach you.

Student Medications

If your student needs to take any medication during the school day, please drop it off at Open House. A doctor's form is required for us to administer any medication at school, so be sure to have that completed and turned in as well.

Before & Afterschool Care

Before-school care and after-school care both begin on the very first day of school for students who are signed up! If you haven't signed up yet, stop by the Multi-Purpose Room at Open House for more information.

Your One-Stop Resource: Our Website

Have a question? Chances are the answer is just a click away! Visit www.hgacharter.org and look under Parent Resources for:

- **School calendar** — important dates, holidays, and early dismissal days
- **School supply lists** — grade-level lists for the year
- **Uniform guidelines** — dress code expectations and where to purchase uniforms



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A note about school supplies: Our supply kits are now sold out — thank you for the amazing response! Please refer to the supply lists on our website under Parent Resources, purchase the items at the retailer of your choice, and bring them with you to Open House.

Thank you for taking this journey with us and for your partnership, trust, and school spirit. We'll see you at Open House. More detailed information about Open House will be sent out early next week.

With excitement and gratitude,

Jessica Rivas-Principal