

Homestead Hills Elementary

Sept 2026

Dear Homestead Hills Families,

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year at Homestead Hills Elementary! It has been wonderful to welcome our Huskies back into the building and to feel the excitement and energy that come with a new school year.

We are especially excited to welcome three new members to our teaching staff: Ms. Tanielian in Kindergarten, Mrs. Kranick in 4th grade, and Ms. Hopkins in 5th grade. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and care our entire staff brings to our students, and we are equally grateful for the trust and partnership of our families.

I am confident that this will be another terrific year of learning, growth, and memorable experiences for our students. Thank you for being part of the Homestead Hills family. We are ready for a great year!

Steve Graetz,
Principal, Homestead Hills Elementary



BENZIE CENTRAL
SCHOOLS

CALENDAR

August

8/31 First Day
Students

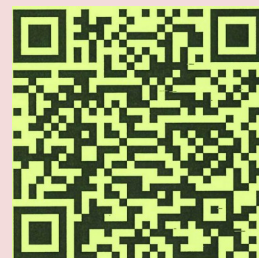
September

9/4 NO School

9/7 NO School
Labor Day

9/11 Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff

9/25 Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff



***Teachers will keep you informed of classroom dates and activities via class dojo be sure to join using this QR code**

From the Hub:

Welcome back Husky families! Open House was a great time to reconnect and enjoy a moment to be together. I am always so glad to see everyone!

There is a LOT of information packed into this newsletter, so make sure to scroll through and take note of information that is relevant to you!

One big important thing to know is that we do not allow parents into the building to drop off students. This builds student independence and keeps our hallways clear and safe. It also allows our teaching staff to keep their focus on the students. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this.

This is also true at pickup times. There is a sheet attached to the newsletter that more clearly outlines the procedures for pickup.

Please join ClassDojo. The school also has a page and we will be emailing newsletters as well as posting them to the school page. I am still learning it, but it seems like a good communication tool.

Some teachers passed out the Parent Packet at Open House. If you haven't received it, please look for it the first day of school. I ask that you return this to your child's teacher the first week of school. If you need another packet or any of the forms, I would be happy to send one home with your student, so just let me know.

There is an attendance poster attached as well. Anytime your child is absent, please be sure to call the office at 882-4641. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day and is checked throughout the day.

Be sure to let me know if you have any questions!

Mrs. Bishop



THE BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX AGE, OR DISABILITY IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE FOLLOWING PERSON HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES: MRS. AMIEE ERFORTH, SUPERINTENDENT, 9300 HOMESTEAD RD., BENZONIA, MI 49616 – (231)882-9653



Homestead Hills Elementary **ATTENDANCE** *Every Day Counts!*



Benzie Central's Attendance Goal

"Benzie Central fosters belonging and engagement by partnering with families and the community to remove barriers and ensure every student is present, supported, and inspired to achieve greatness."

♥ Why Attendance Matters ♥



**Builds
Strong Learners**



**Grows Positive
Relationships**



**Creates
New Opportunities**



**Sets Students
Up for Success**



WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR



Attendance Below 90%

If a student's attendance falls below 90%, your child's teacher will reach out to learn if there are any barriers to attendance and discuss ways we can work together to **support** your family.



10 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

After 10 unexcused absences, a meeting with your family, your child's teacher, and school administration will be scheduled to identify **supports** and develop a plan for improving attendance.



KEY ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES



Call the School

All absences must be verified by calling the school office the **morning** of the absence.



Partnering with Families

Our staff is committed to working **together** with families to help students attend school every day that they are healthy and well.



No After School Activities

Students who are absent due to illness or suspension **may not** attend any after school activities on the day they are absent.



Homestead Hills Elementary

849 Husky Trail • Benzonia, MI 49616 • (231) 882-4641

Together, families and schools help students thrive!

#OneBENZIE



School Picture Day

Monday, October 12, 2026

Order Now Online
Safe and Secure
timeless-image.com
Click on Order Pictures
Homestead Hills
Elementary
Monday October 12, 2026



SCAN TO ORDER PICTURES

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

CREDIT CARD: Visit our website: timeless-image.com. On the home page click "Order Pictures", enter School Online Code found on this flyer. There is no need to return the order envelope on Picture Day.

Home Delivery option must be placed online.

Use School Online Code to order Pictures.

The School Online Code is active until

Retake Picture Day

NOTE: Orders placed after Orig. Picture Day will be delivered after Retake Day.

CHECK: Fill out order envelope and insert check made payable to Timeless Image.

Return envelope with student on Picture Day.

CASH: Fill out order envelope, insert cash and return with student on Picture Day.

School Online Code:

6926



Timeless Image vs.
Customer Service:
Mon - Fri 9 am to 4 pm
231.929.1010
timeless-image.com
4788 Church Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49685

PICK FROM THESE PACKAGE COMBINATIONS AND SPECIAL OPTIONS...

PACKAGE A	PACKAGE B	PACKAGE C	PACKAGE D	PACKAGE E	PACKAGE F
\$36.00 2 - 8 x 10 2 - 5 x 7 4 - 3.5 x 5 8 - 2.5 x 3.5 16 - 1.75 x 2.5 1 - Yearbook	\$31.00 1 - 8 x 10 2 - 5 x 7 1 - 3.5 x 5 6 - 2.5 x 3.5 16 - 1.75 x 2.5 1 - Yearbook	\$26.00 1 - 5 x 7 2 - 3.5 x 5 4 - 2.5 x 3.5 8 - 1.75 x 2.5 1 - Yearbook	\$23.00 1 - 3.5 x 5 2 - 2.5 x 3.5 8 - 1.75 x 2.5 1 - Yearbook	\$15.00 1 - 3.5 x 5 2 - 2.5 x 3.5 1 - Yearbook	Christmas Magnets 2 - 2.5 x 3.5 \$12.00 Makes a great gift!
PACKAGE G	PACKAGE H	PACKAGE I	PACKAGE J	PACKAGE K	
Timeless Portrait 1 - 8 x 10 \$14.00 Includes student's first name & year	Combo 1 - 5 x 7 4 - Wallets \$15.00 Includes student's first name & year	\$11.00 1 - 8 x 10	\$11.00 2 - 5 x 7	\$11.00 4 - 3.5 x 5	
PACKAGE L	PACKAGE Q: CUSTOM BACKGROUNDS				PACKAGE R
\$11.00 8 - 2.5 x 3.5	For an additional \$4.00, you can pick from one of these 14 optional backgrounds. Just enter the number of the background you want in the box of section Q found on the order form at the right. Traditional background is no extra charge. <i>Note: additional Backgrounds available when ordering Online</i>				For an additional \$10.00 digital retouching can remove large blemishes and soften small ones.
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14				PACKAGE P For an additional \$4.00 you can personalize your photo with your first name. (Enter first name on order form.)
PACKAGE M					PACKAGE X
\$6.00 8 - 1.75 x 2.5					\$22.00 Digital Download high-resolution copyright-free Personalization not available on Digital Download
PACKAGE O					
\$11.00 1 - Yearbook					

Homestead Hills Elementary
Monday October 12, 2026

Package:	Quantity	x Price	= Subtotal:
A		\$36.00	\$
B		\$31.00	\$
C		\$26.00	\$
D		\$23.00	\$
E		\$15.00	\$
F		\$12.00	\$
G		\$14.00	\$
H		\$15.00	\$
I		\$11.00	\$
J		\$11.00	\$
K		\$11.00	\$
L		\$11.00	\$
M		\$6.00	\$
O		\$11.00	\$
X		\$22.00	\$
Q		\$4.00	\$
R		\$10.00	\$
P		\$4.00	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$			

The School Online Code is active

until Retake Picture Day

School Online Code:

6926



Please PRINT Clearly

Grade _____
Last name _____
First name _____

Timeless Image Inc.

Capturing Memories

...of a child's school years with portraits that become timeless keepsakes

My Image Digital Download
The best way to archive your portrait is a high-resolution, copyright-free digital image.
Personalization not available on Digital Download

FREE

Michael Williams
Birthdate: _____
Height: _____
Weight: _____
Eye Color: _____
Hair Color: _____
Birth Marks: _____

CHILD SAFETY CARD
Issued: Spring 2025 - Replace Annually

FREE when you purchase a package or item online, you have the option to add a free child safety card as a digital download.

Great package options!

Timeless 8x10 Portrait
Featuring student's first name and year and enhanced with a decorative frame.

Combo Package
Personalization is included on your vignettes, 5x7 and four wallets. Order an extra one to give as a gift or trade with your friends.

Additional Backgrounds available when ordering Online!



**2026/27 Homestead Hills Elementary
School Event Calendar sponsored by Husky Helpers PTO**

PTO Meeting Dates - First Tuesday of the month at 4:15 p.m. Room 10, Beginning Sept. 1st

Fun Fridays - Every Full Friday- Popcorn or Treat Cart

August 26 - Welcome Party - Ice Cream Social - During Open House

August 28 - Preschool Open House, 4:30-6pm

Week(s) of September 14 - 25 - Fall Fundraiser - Believe Kids Fundraiser - Hybrid Catalog Fundraiser

Week of October 5 - 9 - Spirit Week for Homecoming- Details to follow

October 8 - October 9 - Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Week(s) of October 19-30 - Holiday Wreaths- Tentative Delivery- November 23rd

Week of October 26-30th - Fall Book Fair- Library- During School Hours, During Fall Festival

October 30 - Homestead Hills Fall Festival- 5:00-7:00pm

Week of December 7 - 11 - Christmas Shoppe- During School Event

January 15 - Family Movie Night - Hosted at Homestead Hills 5:00-7:30pm

February/March - Preschool Prom (TBD)

February 12 - All School Family Dance and Games- 5:30-7:30pm

March 2 - 25 - Reading Month - Pit Spitters Reading Program

Week of March 8-12 - BOGO Scholastic Book Fair- During School and During Conferences

March 8 - 12 - Spring Fundraiser - Money War

March 11- March 12 - Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, April 30 - Spring Carnival/Art Exhibit - 5:30-7:30pm

Week of May 3-7 - Teacher Appreciation Week

June 4 - Field Day - During School Event

(All Dates and Times are Subject to Change)



PTO



Husky Helpers

Husky Helpers is excited to
welcome back all our
Husky Families
for the 26/27 school year!



- We kick off our first **Fundraiser** **September 14th-25th** with Believe Kids hybrid online/in-person catalog. Look for more information coming home soon!
- Join us for our **meeting September 1st**, room 10 at 4:15pm.
- Fun Friday will begin **September 18th** with Popcorn Friday!
- New This Year — **Parent Participation Incentive**: Volunteer for any one of our in-person events and be entered to win a **\$50** gift card to another local business!
- **How can you volunteer**- Simply sign up prior to each event via SignUpGenius, direct contact with email or social media.
- Check out our **event line up** with the link attached!



Follow us on Facebook
Husky Helpers PTO



Email us at
huskyhelperspto@gmail.com



Last Days to Register

Last Day for 4-H Soccer Enrollment
is August 30th! Register Today!!!

Benzie 4-H Soccer



Interested in a social sport? Register to play soccer with Benzie Area 4-H Youth Soccer Club by August 30th! Open to 4-H ages 5-13 (approximately grades K-8) there are 2 ways to register!

1) 4-H Online - <https://2026BenzieFallSoccer.4honline.com>

2) Paper Enrollments - <https://bit.ly/3UsfBvj>

Online Enrollment is a 2-step process if you did not play in 2025! Once your membership is approved, you will need to log back in and register with the event to be placed on a team.

If you have a 5 Year Old registering, you will have to use paper enrollments. This is a limitation of the system.



HOMESTEAD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

August 17	Office Opens
August 31	First Day Students- Welcome to the 26-27 School Year!
September 4	NO School
September 7	NO School- Labor Day
September 11	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
September 25	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
October 1	Webber Winter Wear Form DUE
October 8, 9	EARLY DISMISSAL for students @ 11:50; Parent Teacher Conferences
October 12	Picture Day
October 30	End of the First Marking Period
November 2	NO School for Students
Nov 10, 2026	Picture Retake Day
November 25, 26, 27	NO School, Thanksgiving Break
December 4	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
December 21-31	NO School, Winter Break
January 1	NO School, Winter Break
January 4	School Resumes
January 22	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; End of Semester 1, Full Day staff
February 12	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
February 15	No School
March 11, 12	EARLY DISMISSAL for students @ 11:50; Parent Teacher Conferences
March 26-31	No School, Spring Break
April 1-4	No School, Spring Break
April 5	School Resumes
April 9	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; End of 3rd Marking Period, PD for Staff
April 23	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
May 28	Early Dismissal for Students @ 11:50; PD for Staff
May 31	No School- Memorial Day
June 9***	Last Day of School- Half Day for Students. Dismissal @11:50 am

Last day, tentative as weather/acts of God may extend the school year. Calendar is subject to change.

[For Husky Helpers \(PTO\) Events CLICK HERE](#)

COME RUN WITH US!



Benzie Central is excited to have an Elementary Cross Country Program again this year! All 3rd through 5th grade students are invited to run with us (K-2 with an adult)!

WHAT IS CROSS COUNTRY? It is running in fields and in woods. Benzie Central has a strong Cross Country program and we would love to have your student become a part of the tradition. Elementary students run a 1-mile course.

WHY CROSS COUNTRY? It is one of the few sports that a student can achieve personal success whether or not the team does well. Also, Cross Country teaches lifelong skills such as discipline, hard work, and conditioning, to name a few.

WHEN? We will begin practice **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8th** (4:00 - 5:00). Please plan on picking up your student promptly after practice.

WHAT DOES MY ATHLETE NEED? A pair of running shoes, practice clothes (shorts, t-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirt, etc...), **water bottle** and a completed Participation/Consent Form. We can not allow participation without the form.

We have 3 races this year at the Northwest Conference Jamborees! The first race will be **Tuesday, September 15th**. Any athlete who races will receive a ribbon, and all athletes who participate in **all three races** will earn a medal!

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday September 15 th	Buckley High School 305 N 1st St, Buckley, 49620	Elementary Runs @6:00 Arrive by 5:30
Tuesday September 29 th	Onkama Consolidated Schools 5016 Main St, Onkama, MI 49675	Elementary Runs @6:00 Arrive by 5:30
Tuesday October 13 th	Glen Lake High School 3375 Burdickville Rd., Maple City, 49664	Elementary Runs @6:00 Arrive by 5:30

Other events include the Homecoming Parade and the End-of-Season Celebration! Dates will be shared later.

Coach: Shane Iverson @ Homestead Hills

Phone: 231-651-9201

BAND: We use Band for quick communications to parents; Scan QR code below to sign up!

E-mail: coach@shaneiverson.com

Please feel free to contact me with any questions!

Update 2026



**Benzie Central Elementary
Husky Pups
Cross Country
2026**

Participation/Consent Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Athlete _____ School _____ Grade _____

Date _____ Gender ____ Age ____ Homeroom Teacher _____

I, the undersigned parent/guardian of the child named above, hereby give my consent for such child to participate in the sports programs indicated, which are being offered by Benzie Central Elementary Cross Country for the current school year.

I hereby hold Benzie Elementary Cross Country, their employees, and agents harmless for injuries sustained by such child as a result of participation in the sports programs. I agree to assume full financial responsibility for medical treatment necessary as a result of any injury.

The undersigned does hereby grant to the individuals listed below the responsibility for the care of the child.

- Deann Mosher – Betsey Valley
- Shane Iverson – Homestead Hills
- Kelse Berndt – Lake Ann

Or, in the event any of these is unavailable, I grant the attending hospital emergency room physician and/or nurse the limited power of attorney to act for me and to give the required consent and authorizations for the delivery of medical care, diagnosis and treatment, including surgical intervention, if necessary, on behalf of my minor child named above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Phone # _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Work Phone# _____

Address: _____

Parent's e-mail: _____

1st Emergency contact person: _____ Phone# _____

2nd Emergency contact person: _____ Phone# _____

Physician: _____ Physician's Phone# _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy# _____

Date of Last Tetanus Immunization: _____

Known Allergies/Significant Medical History _____

Husky Pups T-Shirt Order Form

Date_____

Name of athlete_____School_____Grade _____

Homeroom Teacher_____

Place the number of shirts you'd like for your athlete (and one for yourself!) in the appropriate size box below.

Tees are free for athletes and \$10 for all who want to show their support for our Husky Pups!

	Youth			Adult			
	S	M	L	S	M	L	XL
Quantity							
Totals							

Shirts will be available at the first meet.

Please have order forms returned to Coach by Thursday, September 15, 2026

Thank you!

#OneBenzie

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September - October 2026						
Husky Pups Practice and Meet Calendar 2026						
	7 Labor Day	8  Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	9	10 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	11	12
13	14	15  Husky Pups Meet at Buckley 6:00 PM Arrive by 5:30	16	17 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	18	19
20	21	22 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	23	24 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	25	26
27	28	29  Husky Pups Meet at Onekama 6:00 P.M. Arrive by 5:30	30	1 October Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	2	3
4	5	6 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	7	8 Husky Pups 4PM-5PM	9	10
11	12	13  Husky Pups Meet Glen Lake 6:00 P.M. Arrive by 5:30	14	15 Season Awards After School	16	Coach Iverson 231-651-9201

HUSKY

WRESTLING CLUB

Why Wrestle?



Any **BODY** Can Wrestle

Wrestling is a sport for everybody, literally!

For some kids, wrestling isn't just a sport —it's a lifeline. On the mat, they find discipline, confidence, energy outlet, and purpose that lasts a lifetime.

Great Foundation for all sports

Wrestling is also the fastest growing womens sport!

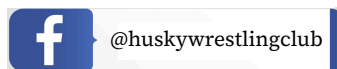
There will be a short Novice (*beginner*) season starting in November.

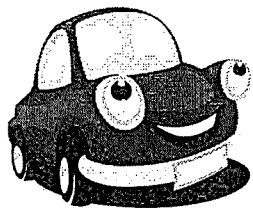
Regular season will start in January.

All kids in grades Pre-K - 5th are welcome to join



Follow us on
Facebook





Homestead Hills Elementary Afternoon Car Line & Pick-Up Procedure

Welcome to the-2026-27 school year! For everyone's safety and well-being, we will be conducting our student dismissal as follows. Please be patient with the staff, other drivers, and buses. **See the reverse side of this sheet for a detailed map.**

STUDENT DISMISSAL

Staff will begin calling K-5 students for pick-up no earlier than 3:59. Your child will wait with school staff until their name is called. **If your child normally rides the bus, but you are picking them up, notify the office of the change before 3:30, and follow the pick-up procedure below.** If someone is picking up your child, other than you, please inform them of our procedure.

SAFETY FIRST

Our dismissal plan is designed with the utmost safety for all in mind and to be accident-free. Please obey all traffic laws. Staff have been strategically placed to aid in navigating the driving lanes and parking areas, and safety of your child. Please be aware of staff that may be directing traffic or students in the roadway. We ask that you drive slowly upon entering Husky Trail, the campus drive, and parking lot. Be prepared to stop for crossing guards and traffic control. Unfortunately, traffic will back up. **Please wait patiently and DO NOT PASS in oncoming lanes on Husky Trail and obey the traffic attendant.** Please yield to buses and keep intersections open. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe.

CAR WINDOW SIGNAGE

ALL cars that are picking up need to have a student sign in their passenger window. Parents will be given a sign for each of their students. Please write your child's name and grade on it with **large, bold dark marker.** Place the sign(s) in your **passenger side window** where it can be clearly read by the attending staff members. If you lose it or do not have a sign, please make one or contact the school office. Anyone picking up besides you needs to have a sign also.

PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Preschool Parents → Use the Preschool Car Lane once it splits off the single entrance lane or go into the parking lot. **DO NOT PASS IN THE ONCOMING LANE ON HUSKY TRAIL.** Please wait patiently when traffic is stopped and obey the traffic attendant. Drive slowly and be prepared to stop at the crosswalk. If you have K-5 students also, get in the K-5 carline first. Staff will then direct you to the preschool line when you exit the K-5 line. Please refer to the map on the back. Parents walking in to get infants, please park in the parent parking area, not in the circle drive.

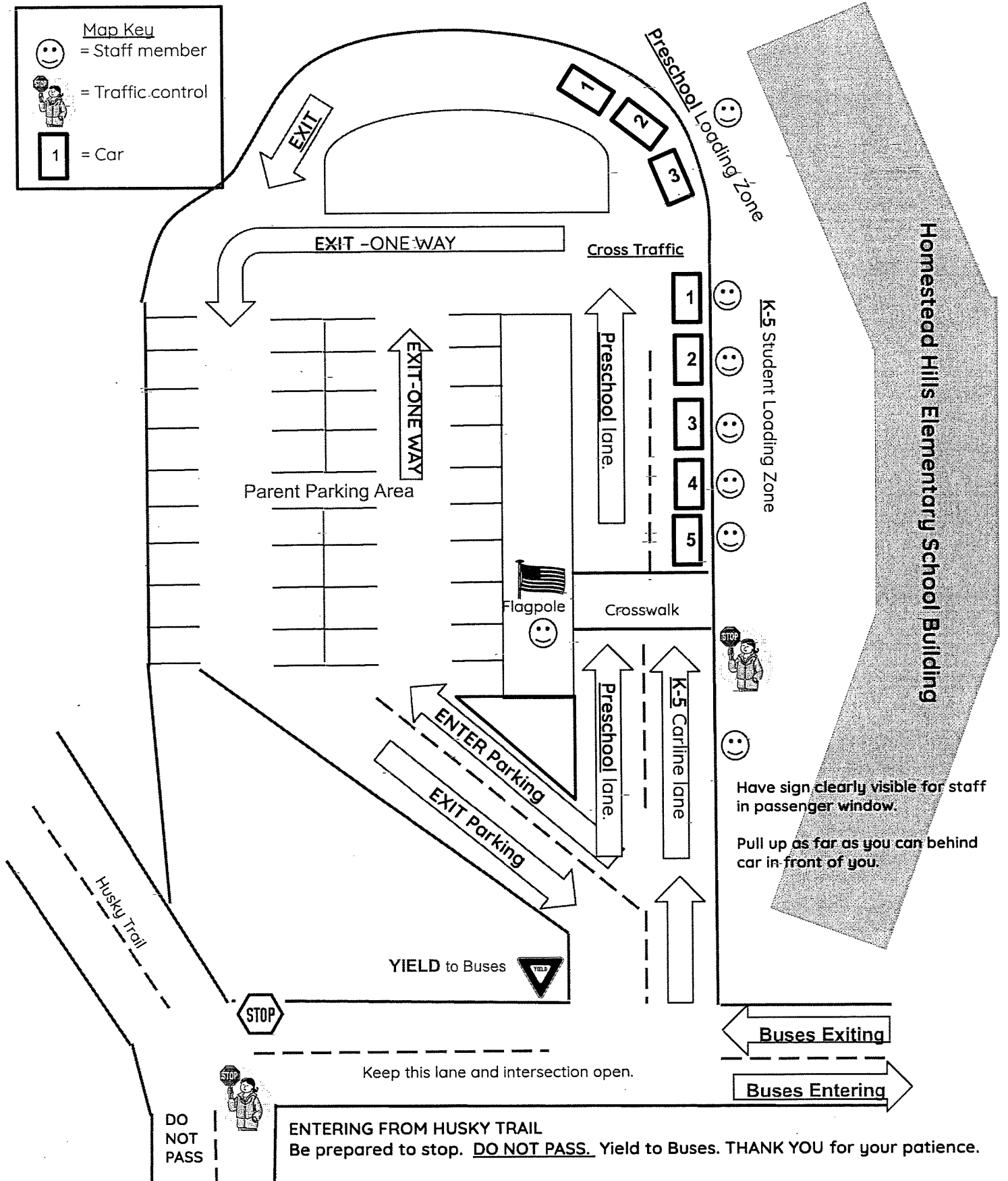
K-5 Parents Carline → Use the K-5 Car Lane. While waiting in line, please pull up closely to the car in front of you. This will help with traffic backing up. Be prepared to stop at the crosswalk. Pull into spots 1, 2, 3, 4, OR 5 in the Student Loading Zone as they become open. **A staff member will not load your child into your car. Rather, they will monitor as your child enters your vehicle.** Staff must keep the car line moving. If your child needs help buckling up, please pull into a safe place in the parking lot where you can help them.

K-5 Parents Walk-ups → Please wait by the flagpole. We have a crossing guard and system. A staff member will walk your child through the crosswalk and meet you by the flagpole.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Homestead Hills Elementary Afternoon Pick-up Map

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and courtesy, so that we may keep everyone safe. Staff will be positioned to help expedite the flow of traffic and students.



WINTER WEAR FESTIVAL

The Wayne and Joan Webber Foundation will be offering new coats and boots to students enrolled in preschool through Fifth grade in the Benzie County School district. This is an annual program and is not need-based. If you would like to receive a coat and a pair of boots for your Homestead Hills Elementary Student (Kindergarten through 5th grade), please read carefully the information below.

If you would like your child to be a recipient of this program you MUST FILL OUT A SURVEY ONLINE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1st. Please use the QR code below or contact bishopl@benzieschools.net for a link.

Please be prepared with the following information:

1. Your child's name, gender, grade, and teacher.
2. Choose **ONE size coat and boots for your child**. Items are ordered specifically for your child. DO NOT order more than one size. Please verify the size you want to order prior to filling out the form. *The size they order is the size they will receive.*
3. Please fill out a separate form for each child enrolled at Homestead Hills.
4. Fill out the form by the due date. NO LATE FORMS CAN BE ACCEPTED as the items are specifically ordered for each child.
5. If you are unable to fill out the survey online, please reach out to the office immediately. Orders not received on time may not be filled!

Due Date: OCTOBER 1, 2026

(Any questions please call the school office at 882-4641)

Homestead Hills Elementary

No thank you _____

Student Name _____

Grade _____ **Teacher** _____ **Male** _____ **Female** _____

I am signing below that I have read the above information. I must fill out the survey to order items through the Webber Foundation. I understand that requests received after the deadline may not be accommodated.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

