

The Appleseed

HUDSONVILLEPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

616-669-1740



The Hudsonville Public Schools Board of Education Newsletter

December 2020/January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are doing well as we enter the holiday season. It's hard to believe what has all happened in 2020 and where we were just one year ago. How many times have you heard, "2020 is just a mess!"? We have witnessed the tragedy of a global pandemic, one that will for sure be embedded in our minds and our history books for years to come. Some have handled these challenges like a champ, and others rightfully continue to struggle with restrictions that hamper our everyday life. So many people are working hard to support others and get back to the normalcy we cherish. Every single employee of our district welcomes the chance to get our lives back to normal, and they continue to go the extra mile for each of our kids and each other.

I remember watching TV last New Year's Eve and seeing the ball drop in Time Square. So much excitement in the air as we entered 2020 and thought, "This will be a wonderful year!". Is that just a normal feeling to try and put our past in the rearview mirror? Yes, this year has had additional challenges, however, we need to be optimistic that 2021 will be better. We want to look for a brighter future, but we also have to learn from our past and cherish the positives that did come from this past year. 2020 did have plenty of positives, and I challenge you to look deep into your memory bank to remember the good in 2020. We once again recognize that puzzles and board games are cool, and drive-in movie theaters made a comeback.

This school year has been so unique. We completed 13 weeks of in-person learning when many were not expecting us to be able to meet in person through September. Our Eagle Virtual school launched for the first time and has developed into a quality learning experience for our remote students. While the laptops that we ordered (4,000 of them) back in March have not been delivered yet, our teachers continue to do amazing work providing instruction without them. The district continues to move forward, as we know that this pandemic will be behind us at some point.

Over the last several months, we have finalized the design of the 5th/6th grade building and are on pace to break ground this coming spring. The design of the high school expansion (office connection and new fieldhouse) is also complete, and we will soon see construction crews on campus to begin this work. We are anticipating these amazing facilities to be complete by the summer of 2023. There are some aspects of this bond project that will be completed a bit earlier. The parking lot at Forest Grove Elementary and the roof at Baldwin Middle School are already complete, and the new choir room at the Freshman Campus is slated to be done in early 2022. Before we know it, our buildings will all be impacted in a positive fashion, and our students will once again be gracing the hallways of these exciting new facilities.

This December marks the completion of our strategic plan, SOAR IV. With the input of our community and the work of our administrative team, we have spent most of 2020 working on the goals that will bring Hudsonville Public Schools into the future. This December, we will ask the Board of Education to approve the new short-term, long-term, and on-going goals that make up SOAR IV. These goals are developed to define the priorities we have as a district. From diversity, district growth, curriculum standards, and safety, we will use SOAR IV to move our district into the future. Thank you all for your support and collaboration in this work.

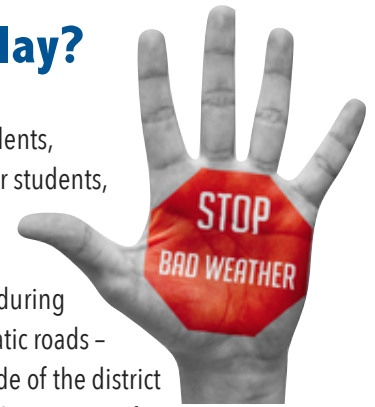
I want to personally thank our staff for all their hard work. They have put in countless hours redefining instruction and supporting students and one another throughout this journey. While I try to thank them every opportunity I get, I would also ask that you do the same. Our health care employees and frontline workers are heroes, and I believe our educators are heroes. They care so deeply for your children. I speak for all of us by saying that I can't wait to have them back in the buildings, playing on the playgrounds, walking the hallways....just like it was in 2019.

Be well. Please stay safe, and thank you again for all you do to make Hudsonville the amazing district it is.


Dr. Doug Vanderjagt
Superintendent

Closing School or Implementing A Two-Hour Delay?

Hudsonville Public Schools clearly understands the issues a snow day and/or a two-hour delay causes students, parents, and staff. Our decision to close school or implement a two-hour delay is based on the safety of our students, parents, and staff.



We have a few of us responsible for checking the roads and driving conditions well before school begins, during the winter months. We drive throughout the nearly 100 square miles of our district checking for problematic roads – gravel roads as well as main thoroughfares. In some cases, driving conditions can vary greatly from one side of the district to the other. Beginning around 5:00 a.m., I am in constant contact with the additional central office staff, the Director of Transportation, in many cases the Ottawa County Road Commission and local weather stations, as well as other school superintendents. Collectively we discuss the conditions of the roads and what we feel is best for our students. Our goal is to make a decision to close school or implement a two-hour delay prior to 5:45 a.m. so parents can make plans for the day. However, as you know, the weather may become inclement later in the early morning, and as a result, that complicates the decision to close or implement a two-hour delay. In any case, here are the following ways to learn whether or not schools are closed or delayed:

1. **Media Outlets:** Hudsonville Public Schools sends information to media outlets about any closure or delay.
2. **Automated Phone Calls/Texts:** We notify all parents with an automated phone call and/or text. To ensure you are receiving calls and texts, please check with your school to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.
3. **Email:** We send out an email message to all parents who have an email in our system. Again, please check with your school to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.
4. **Website/Facebook/Twitter:** We post all closings on the district website (www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org), Facebook (www.facebook.com/hudsonvilleps/), and Twitter (@HPSEagles or @dvanderjagt70). You are encouraged to “follow” one or both of our Twitter handles for closures as well as news and information about the district.

Driving a school bus through the snow is not a problem – for the bus driver or the bus. Our bus drivers are highly trained to maneuver in many types of weather and road conditions. Our professional drivers are all very sensitive to the varied driving skills of others on the road, as well. Ice, however, presents some additional challenges. Your child is much safer riding in a school bus than a private vehicle due to the height and weight of a bus. School buses are manufactured under strict guidelines from the State and Federal Government and are designed with high, padded seats to protect students. What this means is simply keeping students within the framework of their personal seating area. This is why it is so important that students stay seated while the bus is in motion.

Closing school or delaying the start is always a tough decision, but please be assured, as your superintendent, I rely on the information from several people and will always put safety first in my decision.

Stay Connected!



Become a fan of Hudsonville Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news and updates.

The November "SOAR Board" at Jamestown Upper Elementary

Be **S**afe
Own **O**wn It
Act Responsibly
Respect yourself and others

As part of our district P.B.I.S. initiative, students are taught to S.O.A.R. at Jamestown Upper Elementary. Lessons are taught in the classroom, visual reminders are all over the school, and the concepts are reinforced on the morning announcements.

When students are "caught SOARING," they receive a S.O.A.R. dot from a staff member and put their dot on the board with whatever behavior they displayed. Their picture and dot are put on the morning announcements and we contact their family letting them know of the choice they made. The board goes from completely empty in the fall to overflowing in the spring. Students walk past the board all year long able to look back over their past positive choices and work to replicate them.



Kindness in Kindergarten at South Elementary

Mrs. Newenhouse's class is working on ways to show "Kindness in Kindergarten". One of our lessons on kindness is involving a fundraiser for Hand2Hand which helps families in need of food. We decided to help so that kids in our school and other schools won't go hungry on the weekends. The picture to the right is of all the non-perishable food items we collected and turned into Hand2Hand. Mrs. Newenhouse and her kindergartners were excited to share kindness with others! We're learning to S.O.A.R. in many ways this year both in our school and around our community.



HPS Early Childhood Programs Open House for the 2021-2022 School Year and 2021 Summer Program

Registration/Open House Night:

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at the Early Childhood Center from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.*
Early Childhood Center is located at: 5535 School Ave.
(main entrance off Madison Ave.)

Programs include: 3 & 4 year old Preschool, Young Fives, Before/After School Care, and Summer Care.

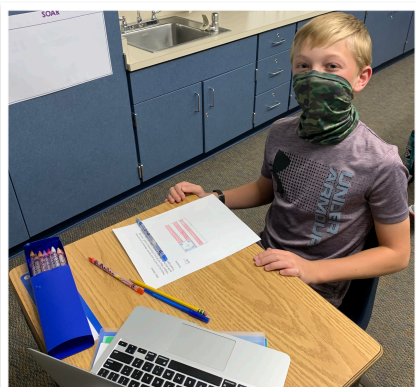
This is a chance to gather information about the programs, meet staff, and visit the Early Childhood Center. There is no formal presentation and children are welcome.

All registration will be completed online and will open Wednesday, February 3, at noon. The registration link can be found at [hudsonvillepublicschools.org](https://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org) under Early Childhood Center. A \$100 fee per child is due (\$50 non-refundable registration fee; \$50 credit towards future tuition). *Enrollment fills quickly.*

* **Dependent on COVID restrictions.**

For more information, please call the Early Childhood office at 616-797-0842, ext. 1

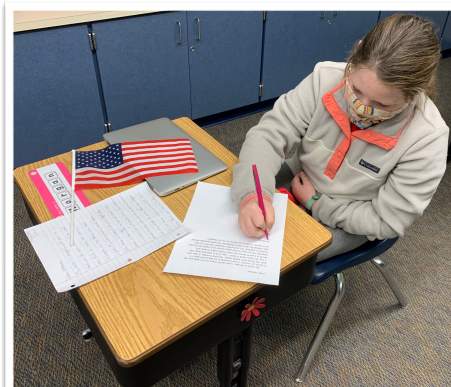




Forest Grove Fifth Grade Students Honor Veterans

Fifth graders at Forest Grove Elementary School honored veterans by writing a personal letter of thankfulness through the organization Operation Gratitude. The letters included a specific "thank you" for the veteran's service and commitment to protecting the citizens of the United States along with some personal highlights about their family, favorite hobbies, and things they liked about school. They even created a patriotic picture drawn in the student's own hand. The book, "America's White Table" authored by Margot Theis Raven, served as

the inspiration for how students can honor our veterans in this type of tangible way. What a great way to combine some present-focused writing instruction with a solemn and joy felt remembrance of the past in this Veteran's Day learning activity!



USDA EXTENDS FREE MEALS FOR STUDENTS

The USDA announced that they would be extending free meals for all students at all schools through June 30, 2021.

All complete meals (breakfast and lunch) will be served at NO COST to children 18 and under (or up through age 26 for individuals with special needs).

What comes with lunch? Lunches include protein (meat/meat alternatives), whole grains, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Students can select 3, 4, or all 5 items. The meal must contain a fruit or vegetable to qualify as a complete meal. Students will still be charged for any other purchases such as milk only, bottled water/juices, additional entrees, etc.

Families do NOT have to fill out additional paperwork to receive meals for free. Free/Reduced Meal Applications will still be collected for the purposes of Math/Reading Title I programs, as well as for discounts on athletic fees, testing fees, college application fees, etc. You can apply for meals at www.lunchapp.com.

For our remote learners, the Remote Meal pickup dates, times, and procedures will remain the same, but all meals will be free. Remote-Learner families will continue to receive a weekly email for ordering.

Visit our website at www.jenhudfood.org for menus and more! If you have additional questions, you can email Food Service at foodservice@hpseagles.net or call (616) 457-2400.



Season of Joy

On behalf of all of us at Hudsonville Public Schools, we wish you and your family the happiest of holidays!

Holiday break:

December 21, 2020 - January 3, 2021
Classes resume on January 4, 2021

During the holiday break, our Administrative Offices will be open from 8 am-1 pm on Dec. 21-23, 28-30. Please email eagles@hpseagles.net for assistance.



Now Hiring Bus Drivers ~ Come join our team!

HPS is looking for people who love kids and would like a rewarding job driving school bus.

All training is provided. Starting pay is \$17.51 per hour

A Commercial Driver License (CDL) is required and training will be provided to qualified individuals for this part time position. If you love working with children, have an excellent driving record, a good sense of direction, and the ability to follow maps, we would love to talk to you!

For more information or to apply, please visit our Transportation Department, 3550 Allen St. or call 616-669-7757. Information and applications can also be found on the district website. hudsonvillepublicschools.org



HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY!

Are you on the hunt for the perfect gift for the Hudsonville Eagle fan in your life? The [Eagles Landing](#) school store has many new items that you can purchase. Orders placed online can be picked up in the front office at the high school.

Follow the Eagles Landing school store on instagram [@hhs.school.store](https://www.instagram.com/hhs.school.store) for updates on new apparel and information.



TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION

Each year, the federal government provides funding for support services and materials for students identified as falling behind in grade level content standards and expectations. District assessment and standardized test scores are indicators of those students who would most benefit from these services. If your child has been identified for receiving the services provided in the building, you will receive a letter in the mail from your child's building principal or staff member. A plan will be put in place to assure your child will receive the appropriate support in order to achieve the academic goals of that grade level or course in the areas of reading, writing, or math. The support received may be short term or long term depending on the individual needs of each student. We believe each and every student can be successful in their academic journey if provided the right opportunities and with the help and support of parents.

As a parent of a student identified to receive support services, you are strongly encouraged to be involved in any of the planning for your child's success. On the Hudsonville Public Schools district website, you will find a tab for Title I. Under this tab, you will find our Board Policy language on Title I parent involvement and your rights as a parent to ask questions and be involved. Please contact your building principal if you would like to discuss how to be involved. Title I information meetings will be announced for you to attend in your child's building.

The Hudsonville Public Schools staff devote their time and effort to helping all students be successful. We are grateful for federal and state funding that allows us to add support services for any student falling behind. We know the power of working together as staff, students, and parents as we blend our contributions for the same common goal.

Hudsonville Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 3886 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI. 49426, (616) 669-1740