



Parents, guardians, and community members,

As we enter the holiday season, we have a lot to be thankful for. Our community continues to show unimaginable support for each other and for those working in our district. Over the past year, we have witnessed some amazing accomplishments as a district while dealing with some challenging conditions. We have learned to support each other and find the richness in each and every person. Our students and staff are entering the holiday season by providing support for those less fortunate. With Thanksgiving baskets, food drives, and Christmas gift baskets, this community will always be known for the generosity it provides. Thank you to all that provide assistance to those families in need.

Earlier in November, the Hudsonville Education Foundation hosted its annual HEF Gala. What a great night to celebrate some of our students while also inducting our newest class into our alumni hall of fame. Congratulations to Mr. Henry Scholten, class of 1938; Dr. Elmer Vrugink, class of 1945; Mr. Ken Goff, class of 1979; Chief Kimberly Koster, class of 1986; and Dr. Samuel Maluil, class of 2003. The HEF continues to provide much-needed support to our classroom teachers as they creatively seek funding opportunities to inspire and challenge their classroom students. Our team has been steadfast in providing the best education for our students each and every day.

We are thrilled to announce that our new high school choir room is just about completed and students will begin occupying this space right after our holiday break. The high school connector and fieldhouse are taking shape and we hope to see those completed during the 22-23 school year. The 5/6 building is beginning to rise from the ground and will be a great addition to the north end of our district. New monument signs are on order and being erected as soon as they arrive. Baldwin Middle, Georgetown, and Bauer have already begun to showcase these new signs as they provide valuable information to our community. Signs at Jamestown Lower, Jamestown Upper, Riley Middle, Forest Grove, and our Early Childhood Center should be installed the first part of the year.

Our Covid-19 numbers have been reaching some peaks and valleys over the past few weeks. Some weeks we are faced with extreme numbers of staff and students testing positive and others we see the transmission slowing down. We are saddened to see loved ones passing away from this terrible virus, as our hearts go out to each and every one of you that has lost someone close to you. I want to thank our amazing staff for their continued patience as we navigate state and federal mandates to the best of our abilities. These mandates are certainly a moving target, and quite often change on a daily basis. The staff of Hudsonville Public Schools has been simply incredible for all their efforts to keep your children safe albeit dealing with their own personal challenges that this pandemic provides. With Thanksgiving weekend just behind us, I for one am thankful for everything our staff and community are doing to support our school system.

From my family to yours, I wish you nothing but the best as we close out 2021 and welcome another new year.

Kind regards,

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.



There are a few of us that are 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.

~Dr. Doug VanderJagt

Stay Connected!



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



HPS Early Childhood Programs Open House for the 2022-2023 School Year and 2022 Summer Program

Registration/Open House Night:

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 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.)

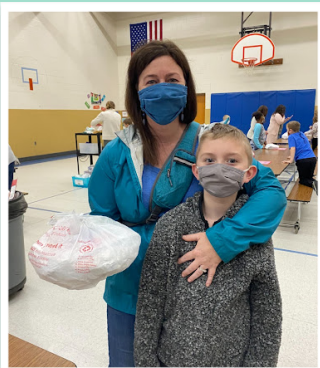
Programs include: 3 & 4 year old Preschool, Before/After School Care, and Summer Care.

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 registrations will be completed online and will open Wednesday, February 2, at noon. The registration link can be found at 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



The second graders at Park Elementary hosted a Pie Making Day. It was a great service project that taught them how to bring a smile to someone else. Each student thought of a person or family to whom they wanted to give their pie, made a card for those special people, and then assembled the pie to later deliver to their special person. We hope that these pies can bring a warm, loving smell to a home as well as a smile.

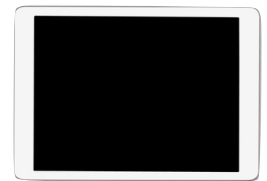


Gabby Baker, an 8th grader at Baldwin Street Middle School, demonstrated what it's like to SOAR and put others' needs before her own. She created and presented a beautiful piece of art to classmate, Kellan Gainey, who has limited vision. She was curious about how he could experience and appreciate art, so she made him a tactile painting. The painting is of a raised tree (which actually feels like the bark of a tree), swirls of clouds, and textured sky and grass. Next to the tree, she brailled the word "tree." Kellan was very touched by her gift. Thank you, Gabby, for spreading your kindness at BMS!



Help Us Get Better and Cheaper Internet in Hudsonville

You have likely experienced slow or spotty internet, and it is likely you know how frustrating, inconvenient, and problematic it can be. Worse yet, you may not be able to get high-speed internet or cannot afford it. This is a serious issue for many in our school district who need to work or attend school remotely, and it is a problem that a task force from Ottawa County is trying to solve.



The group, comprised of business owners and other professionals, has introduced a process in which they seek to understand more about where the access problems are and then develop solutions to improve it. The first step is data collection. Because the current information we have is incomplete (no one has conducted any comprehensive research), we need residents to share details about what they have and how well it works for them.

In order to bridge this digital divide, the committee needs to gain a better picture of which properties do not have the essential internet they need. For this, we need your help! Please take a few minutes to fill out [this brief survey](#).

Once the results are collected, the next phase of the process will begin, ultimately resulting in a series of actions that will enhance access for everyone. Please visit the [Countywide Broadband Internet page](#) for more details.

We encourage everyone to participate to improve internet access for our students, our staff, and our community in general. Thank you for your support.



JAMESTOWN CARES PE FOOD DRIVE

Jamestown Lower and Upper Elementary recently participated in the "P.E. Cares" Food Drive which was organized by Matt Leonard, the Physical Education teacher at both buildings.

Mr. Leonard challenged our students to be generous and think of others in need during the holiday season. Over the course of 2 weeks, the donations started to pour in. By the time the food truck from Harvest Stand Ministries in Zeeland pulled into our schools, we had broken all of our records for giving:

2019: 1,710 pounds of food collected

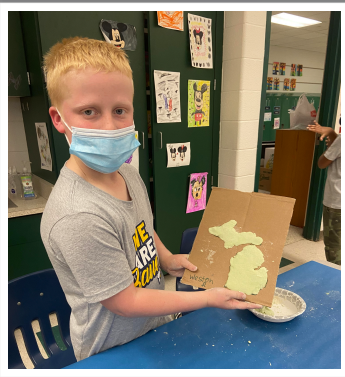
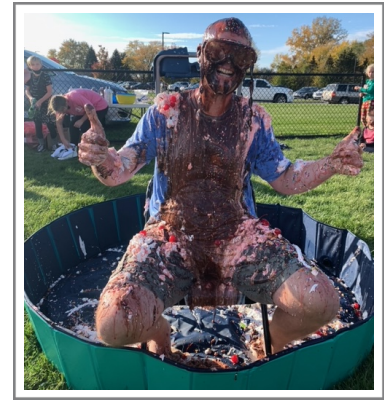
2020: 2,579 pounds of food collected

2021: 4,003 pounds of food collected

Thank you to all of our Jamestown families for their generosity!



As an extra incentive for South Elementary's Walk-A-Thon, custodian Greg VanderKolk, volunteered to become a "human ice cream Sundae!" Not only did the kids reach their goal of raising \$16,000, but they also crushed it by raising an incredible \$23,634! True to his word, Mr. Greg put on his safety goggles and prepared to celebrate the massive accomplishment by getting turned into a sticky mess of chocolate sauce, whipped cream, and cherries!



Third grade students at Bauer Elementary made Michigan salt dough maps as a culminating activity for their geography unit. They mixed the dough, shaped it to look like the Upper and Lower Peninsulas and then added natural and human characteristics to it. The students had a blast applying the knowledge to a hands-on learning experience.



Georgetown Elementary is so thankful to all our Georgetown families who donated food items for the PE Cares food drive. Love Your Neighbor (formerly Love Inc.) in Hudsonville came to Georgetown recently and picked up 8,008 items! That kindness and generosity will help so many families in Hudsonville. Mr. Kooiker's class brought in the most items and earned a PE CARES t-shirt and bowling field trip to Hudsonville Lanes. A big thank you to Mrs. Wysocki's class for loading the items into the truck.



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 20, 2021 – January 2, 2022

Classes resume on January 3, 2022

During the holiday break, our Administrative Offices will be open from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. on December 20-22, 27-29. Please email eagleshpseagles.net for assistance.





Congratulations Students

2021 EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE STUDENT RECOGNITION



Mae Albrecht
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Charley Avison
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Kavan Belmont
High School
Class of 2023



Braelyn Campbell
Freshman Campus
Class of 2025



Logan Dieleman
Freshman Campus
Class of 2025



Reece Dodson
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Kaden Alferink
High School
Class of 2024



Colin Baugher
Baldwin Street Middle
Class of 2026



Cade Bulskool
High School
Class of 2022



Ethan DeLine
High School
Class of 2023



Luke Disler
Riley Street Middle Sc
Class of 2026



Jacob Ellis
High School
Class of 2022

Congratulations to the 24 students from the classes of 2022 - 2027 for being recognized as "Eagles of Excellence" at the Gala on November 8. These students were selected by their building administrators for their quality of character, positive attitude, and commitment to academics. These Eagles are going to SOAR high!

Your Support of the Hudsonville Education Foundation

- Prepares Learners
- Provides Opportunity
- Grows Leaders
- Makes an Impact!

Join us in investing in tomorrow by donating to the Hudsonville Education Foundation Endowment today. You make the difference! [Make your donation here.](#)

Congratulations Students

2021 EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE STUDENT RECOGNITION



Colten Hansen
High School
Class of 2024



Skylar Hogan
High School
Class of 2022



Jalen Oosting
Freshman Campus
Class of 2025



Mai Sanour
Freshman Campus
Class of 2025



Ashlyn VanderBaan
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2026



Kailey Walcott
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2026



Sarea Hefer
High School
Class of 2023



Noah Nolan
High School
Class of 2022



Nate Richardson
High School
Class of 2024



Cooper Smit
Baldwin Street Middle :
Class of 2027



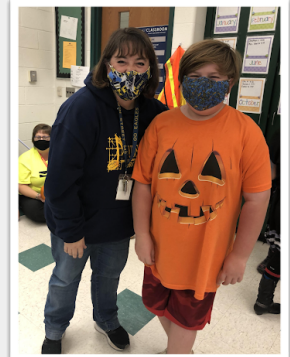
Riley VanderStel
High School
Class of 2023



Elizabeth White
High School
Class of 2024



Thank You, Bauer Parents! The fourth-grade parents at Bauer Elementary volunteered to provide fun, engaging, and safe ways for students to celebrate Halloween! Students were able to spend time completing a fall-themed mason jar craft, play games with gourds, and enjoy healthy snacks! Thank you for your support and for always going above and beyond for our students!



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, Hudsonville Public Schools, 3886 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI 49426, (616) 669-1740