



Dear Community Members,

We have officially entered the midway point of the first trimester for our high school students and well on our way into the first semester for all others. With fall upon us, the leaves are beginning to change and the cool nights are certainly settling in. It is only a matter of time before we get the shovels out and check our phones for school delays and cancelations. While we didn't have any snow days last year, which I know that is hard to believe, I'm fairly certain that we don't want to repeat last year's balmy winter followed by a pandemic taking over. With so many communications regarding changes to our programs and the impact this nasty virus has had on our district and community, I wanted to celebrate a few highlights for this school year that are not COVID-19 related.



We will be completing our three-year strategic plan in late December. This plan, known as SOAR IV, will help shape the district for a bright future. Thanks to your feedback last spring with our surveys, this summer our administrative team developed goals from your feedback to help define the future. This community, staff, and student-led strategic plan will consist of short-term, long-term, and on-going goals in the areas of teaching and learning, human resources, finance, special services, and co-curricular activities. Some of the goals will encompass district growth, student inclusion, co-curricular expansion, and program development.

Throughout the spring and summer, the district continued the design work of our new 5/6 building and expansion at the high school. Now that the plans have been finalized, we look forward to the construction phase to begin once the snow thaws next spring. The 5/6 building is slated to open the fall of 2023 and will be located just north of the Baldwin MS/Georgetown campus. The high school additions will also open in 2023. The high school campus will be gaining eight additional classrooms, a new entrance, and an arena that will hold the entire student body. The arena will be particularly useful as our current facilities do not include a space that can hold all of our students. The new choir room, if construction progresses smoothly, will open in the fall of 2022. We also were able to complete work this summer at a few of our buildings. Baldwin Street Middle School's roof has been redone and the parking lot at Forest Grove Elementary was completely redesigned. Thanks to the support of our community, these projects will positively impact our facilities and learning environments for years to come.

We are happy to report that the Chromebooks we ordered last spring are nearing their delivery to our district. Once we have these devices prepared for students, we will begin to distribute them beginning with our senior class. These devices are intended to stay with students, but will be returned at the completion of each school year. Our goal is to provide a device for all high school students by the start of the second trimester. Students at the middle school level will be next, with an anticipated distribution around the start of the second semester in January. We are working to finalize parent informational (virtual) meetings that will provide information regarding insurance, technology expectations, and instructional practices. Please stay tuned for further information regarding this important one-to-one rollout that will provide students this technology.

We continue to make great strides in the classroom and in the virtual environment. As our high school students enter the backstretch of the first trimester, we will be reaching out to our Eagle Virtual families to determine plans should they wish to switch to in-person instruction. While we continue to stress our safeguards (i.e., masks, social distancing, good hygiene), we ask that you continue to stress these outside of school also. We all want to do our part to keep our school open. With your help, we believe we can do great things.

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This November we hope you will all get a chance to get to the polls and vote. While the focus may be on the presidential election, we also have three Board of Education seats on the ballot. Please see our [website](#) for information regarding the candidates running for these open seats.

My heart goes out to the families and loved ones affected by this pandemic. There were too many lives lost and there's been a deep impact on our economy. I believe we will overcome these challenges and be stronger when this pandemic subsides. Please take care of yourself and those around you.

Fire Up - Go Eagles!



Dr. Vanderjagt  
Superintendent

## Eagle Virtual Updates

As we anticipate preparations for the 2nd trimester at the high school, and the 2nd semester at the middle schools and elementary schools, it is necessary to gather student enrollment data. We anticipate changes in enrollment which will impact staffing, course offerings and timelines to ensure enrollment in desired courses and classes. Communication and a survey link to denote your intent of staying in Eagle Virtual or returning to face to face instruction will be sent to all families following the below timelines.



### Elementary/Middle School

- **Monday, November 30** - Survey for families to indicate their intent to stay virtual or return to face-to-face instruction beginning on Monday, January 18.
- **Wednesday, December 9** - Survey deadline
- **Monday, December 14** - Scheduling/Staffing for 2nd semester begins
- **Monday, January 18** - The second semester begins

### High School

- **Friday, October 9** - Survey for families to indicate their intent to stay virtual or return to face-to-face instruction beginning on Monday, November 16.
- **Friday, October 16** - Survey deadline
- **Monday, October 19** - Scheduling/Staffing for 2nd trimester begins
- **Wednesday, October 21** - Elective choice forms sent to EV students.
- **Monday, November 16** - The second trimester begins

## PARK STUDENT'S TOUCHING PICTURE CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS VIDEO PROMOTION

Cora Head, Park Elementary student and daughter to Katrina and Scott Curtis, appeared in the bright lights above Broadway on September 12, as part of the National Down Syndrome Society's annual Time Square video presentation. The featured photographs highlight children, teens, and adults with Down Syndrome, reminding the world in a big way about the contributions and milestones of people with Down Syndrome. The collective images promote the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome.

The photo featuring Cora (right) was selected as one of the 500 photographs that will appear in the video shown in the heart of Times Square. The video presentation kicks off Down Syndrome Awareness month, which is October.



## THE 2020 INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AWARD PRESENTED TO HHS TEACHER, DIRK ROBERTS

Dirk was uniquely challenged in March this year when the Stay at Home order was issued, and teachers began teaching online from home. As a physical education and strength teacher, it is nearly impossible to lead a strength class without access to a weight room. However, Dirk's passion for his students pushed him to get creative. He held one-on-one discussions with his students to understand what type of equipment they had access to at home and then thought outside the box to develop individualized training programs.

Dirk has created a culture in the weight room and throughout Hudsonville High School, improving students' mental and physical growth. Through his teaching methods, student injuries have decreased, and weight room records have been broken.

Dirk's dedication and ingenuity represent the innovative spirit present throughout Hudsonville Public Schools. Thank you, Dirk - and all of our HPS teachers - for continuing to lead throughout difficult circumstances!

The Hudsonville Education Foundation (HEF) was established in 2003 to foster educational opportunities for Hudsonville Public School (HPS) students. The HEF provides funding for projects that enhance education and encourage innovative learning. Each year, the HEF awards grants to HPS teachers, honors an innovative HPS staff member, recognizes distinguished alumni, and presents scholarships to Hudsonville High School seniors. Find out more about the HEF by visiting our [website](#), liking us on [Facebook](#), or following us on [Twitter](#).







## ALWARD ELEMENTARY KIDS KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO SOAR!

Throughout the month of September, our students were busy learning about SOAR and what it means to SOAR at Alward. We kicked-off SOAR with a special visit from the "SOAR"ing Spy, who travels to many Hudsonville schools to teach students how to

"Be Safe, Own It, Act Responsible, and Be Respectful." The SOARing Spy, (also known to many as Mr. Veldheer, our PBIS specialist), also shared with students about how they can earn SOAR tokens for modeling what it looks like to SOAR. Each class works towards earning a certain number of tokens so that they can have a celebration SOAR party. Each class gets to pick what they would like to do for their SOAR parties. Three classes that have already earned enough tokens for a party celebrated by having a pajama day, extra reading time, and a class kickball game! Way to go Alward students!

In addition to our SOAR kick-off launch party, our PK and KDG students had a special visit from two of our fabulous bus drivers to teach them about bus safety and what it looks like to SOAR on the bus. Students loaded the buses, learned about bus expectations to stay safe while riding the bus, and then learned how to safely cross a road when getting on or off the bus. Students will also be able to earn SOAR tokens on the bus and have their names entered into a weekly drawing. Our students are already earning bus SOAR tokens! Thank you to our amazing bus drivers for all that they do to keep our students safe to and from school everyday!



## HHS FALL PLAY TAKES TO THE AIR


How might the show go on in the midst of a global pandemic? While taking the show outside and keeping everyone six feet apart seems an impossible task for a theatre company, the Hudsonville High School Drama Club intends to do just that.

For three nights only, November 19-21, the HHS Drama Club will proudly present its first-ever Drive-In Radio Drama. *Murder in the Studio* is a series of three short plays by renowned playwright Agatha Christie. Simply find a spot in the Eagle Stadium parking lot on the Baldwin Street Middle School campus, put the car in park, tune in the show on your FM dial, close your eyes, and be transported into another time and place through the magic of radio! If you'd rather, you can watch as students perform the show live, creating the entire soundscape in front of your very eyes. No matter how you chose to enjoy the show, it's sure to be an unforgettable experience for all!

Admission will be \$10 per car, and we ask that all occupants of the vehicle be from the same household. Audience members are asked to remain inside their vehicle to promote social distancing.

Hudsonville High School Drive-In Radio Drama

# MURDER IN THE STUDIO



**NOVEMBER 19, 20, 21  
7 P.M.**

**EAGLE STADIUM AT  
BALDWIN STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**ADMISSION: \$10/CAR**



## WISHES GRANTED

Eighth grade ELA teacher Abby VanMalsen has quite a passion for books! She is no stranger to young adult literature, and she works diligently to grow her classroom library. That's why Mrs. VanMalsen was elated to hear that she was awarded a grant from The Teacher Fund, a 501(c)(3) certified nonprofit "dedicated to the empowerment of all students and the teachers who inspire them." Mrs. VanMalsen has used her grant funding to add books to her classroom library at BMS, particularly novels that showcase diverse characters and authors.



"It is important to me that my classroom library reflects the diverse world we live in. It is imperative that all students can see themselves reflected in the books they read," Mrs. VanMalsen said. She also shared the ideas of scholar and professor Rudine Sims Bishop, explaining that books function as mirrors, windows, and doors into a variety of worlds and cultures.

Mrs. VanMalsen is working toward obtaining her Master's degree from GVSU in Curriculum and Instruction, focusing on the impact of diverse classroom libraries. When applying for The Teacher Fund grant this summer, Mrs. VanMalsen shared some of her graduate research, coupled with student experiences. She wrote about an emotional conversation an eighth-grader had shared with her three years ago--about how it felt to finally see characters "like her" within a classroom library. The nonprofit was impressed with the amount of work Mrs. VanMalsen has poured into her library text selection, as well as her advocacy for all students. Mrs. VanMalsen is grateful for the support of The Teacher Fund in amplifying the voices and stories that can change the world.



## "EAGLE HALL OF FAME" AT JAMESTOWN UPPER ELEMENTARY

For the 5th consecutive year, Jamestown Upper Elementary is using their "Eagle Hall of Fame" to recognize students who are consistently being role models in the building for what it means to S.O.A.R. Each month, two students from each class are either selected by their classmates or nominated by their teacher:

While we aren't holding the parade around the school for safety reasons, students are still called down over the loudspeaker and

recognized by their classmates. They autograph their picture, put it on the hall of fame wall, and have their picture on the morning announcements.

Congratulations to our Eagle Hall of Fame inductees for September and all of our Jamestown students who are doing such a great job SOARING to start the school year!



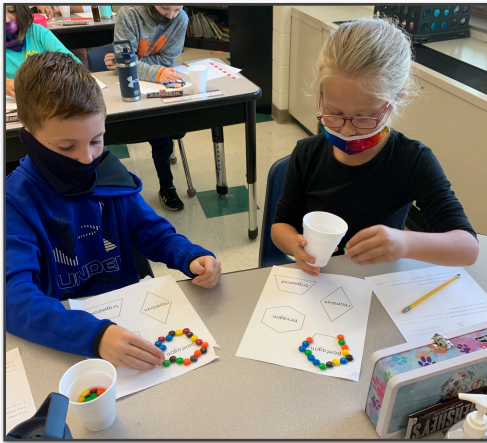
## STAY CONNECTED!



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

**Sign up to receive texts from HPS** ~ Opt-in (Text "YES" to 68453) from a phone or digital device

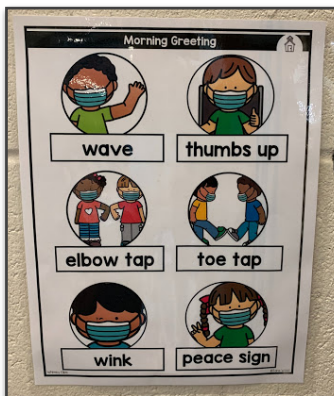
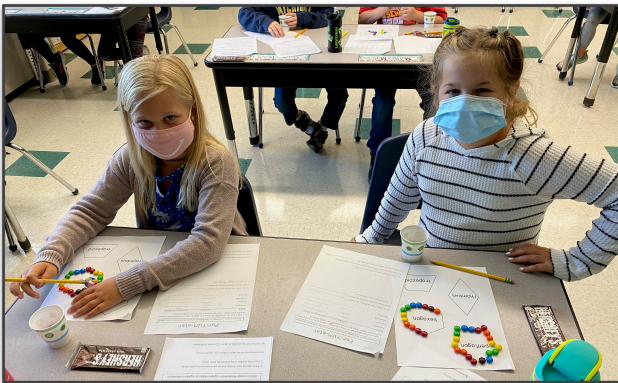




## BAUER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LEARN THAT MATH CAN BE DELICIOUS!

Third graders at Bauer Elementary celebrated Milton Hershey's birthday on September 11. (His birthday is September 13). Students were engaged with various math activities, all involving Hershey chocolate. They learned about area, perimeter, and time. Each one of these activities used different kinds of chocolate to help students calculate their answers. We, of course, enjoyed eating chocolate as well, too! Happy Birthday, Milton Hershey!

*"If you learn too much of what others have done, you may tend to take the same direction as everybody else."* -Milton Hershey



## SAFE AND LOVING GREETINGS

One of the first and most important things we do at Jamestown Lower is to greet our students. We want them to feel welcomed into the classroom, know they are cared for and have a great start to their school day. This year, our welcomes are looking a little different. Instead of handshakes, hugs, and high fives, we are getting creative and finding greetings that help our students feel seen and heard, provide choice, and respect space without spreading germs.

While we can't wait for the days when we'll be hugging and high-fiving again, we're loving every opportunity to show our students how much we care about them and make sure their days at Jamestown Lower are off to a loving and positive start!



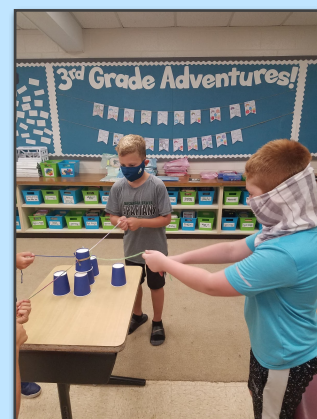
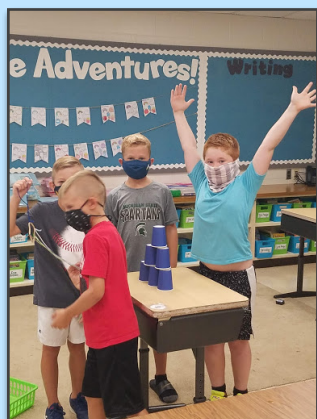


## Hudsonville Athletic Booster Apparel Sale!

The Hudsonville Athletic Boosters are proud supporters of our student-athletes! To raise funds to support our student-athletes, we are running an apparel fundraiser where 100% of the profits will be used to support our athletic programs. As a booster group, we have been very fortunate with the community's support to purchase items for our student-athletes, such as new uniforms, training aids, and exercise equipment. If you would be interested in supporting our student-athletes at Hudsonville, please look at the [Eagle Apparel Fundraiser Store](#).

### PARK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE BEING TOGETHER AGAIN!

The 3rd-grade students at Park Elementary are working to reconnect with each other after so much time apart. They are safely taking this on through unique team building activities that allow us to be spaced out, but still working on a common goal. In one of the challenges, students were given a rubber band with four pieces of yarn tied to it and 6 disposable cups. The task was to pick up the cups and create a pyramid without touching any of the cups with your hands. Students needed to communicate and work in sync to accomplish it. Good work, 3rd graders!



### DISTRICT POLICY REGARDING VISITORS

**No parents, guests, volunteers, visitors, etc. are allowed past the office while in Phase 4.**

Anyone that does enter the building will be required to wear face coverings pursuant to [EO 2020.153](#). Signage will be posted on the doors when entering the building.

All offices will be equipped with plexiglass at the front desk. Furniture in the main office will be arranged so that six feet of social distancing is maintained. Floor marks will indicate proper spacing for anyone in the office.

If a visitor must enter the building beyond the main office, he/she will be screened for symptoms, wear facial covering, and wash/sanitize hands prior to entering. Strict records, including date and time, will be kept of non-school employees or other visitors entering and exiting the building.





## 2020 VIRTUAL TURKEY TROT LET'S KEEP THE TROT GOING!

This year, we want to KEEP THE TROT going with a virtual Turkey Trot.

That means that you will create your own Turkey Trot course in your neighborhood (with an adult). While you are completing your trot, we want you to take pictures of yourself and the people with you and post your

### **TURKEY TROT SNAP SHOTS**

on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram  
HPS Turkey Trot pages.

#### Here's how you do it:

#### 1. REGISTER FOR THE TURKEY TROT.

Registration is open until  
October 15 at 5:00 PM.

<https://onitink.square.site>

The cost is \$7+tax for YS-AXL and \$9+tax for 2XL.

#### 2. PLAN YOUR TURKEY TROT ROUTE.

Plan a route that you and your family or an adult chooses.

The Turkey Trot run is approximately 1/2 Mile for PK-2 and

1 Mile for 3rd - 5th on up. You may choose your own distance

Your personal Turkey Trot should take place between Nov. 7 - 15.

#### 3. LOOK FOR YOUR SHIRT AND RACE NUMBER.

Your PE teacher will deliver them to you during the week of November 2-6.

If you are a virtual student, pick up your shirt on Nov. 5 or 6, at the school you chose when you ordered your shirt.

#### 4. TIME TO TROT AND HAVE FUN!

Head out on your course (with an adult) and go as fast or slow as you like.

BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR SHIRT AND RACE NUMBER!

#### 5. TAKE PICTURES!

#### 6. POST YOUR **TURKEY TROT SNAP SHOTS!**



HPS\_Turkey\_Trot



HPS Turkey Trot



@HPStrot

THEN CHECK OUT THE **TURKEY TROT SNAP SHOTS** THAT EVERYONE POSTS!

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