



Dear Hudsonville Community,

The start of the school year has been extremely successful. Our buildings are bustling with eager students that are hard at work with our dedicated staff. We have been blessed with wonderful students and an amazing community that continues to support our education system.

This year, our school system continues to grow at an anticipated pace. With roughly 100 additional students, Hudsonville Public Schools is nearing the 7,000 students enrollment number. It is anticipated that Hudsonville Public Schools will be the largest district in Ottawa County this school year. What an exciting time to be living in this supportive community! West Michigan is a great place to live and we are fortunate to experience the quality education our students receive through the dedication of parents, staff, and the community.

As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, I do want to make you aware of a very important collaborative effort around Ottawa County. Known as a regional enhancement millage, the [Quality Schools, Quality Communities](#) proposal, if approved, allows taxpayers within our Intermediate School District to levy an education tax to be distributed to public and charter schools on an equal per-pupil basis. Under management of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, the proposal request is 0.9 mills for 10 years and would generate approximately \$11.2 million in the first year, or \$226 per pupil. Hudsonville Public Schools would receive approximately \$1.56 million based on current enrollment projections of 6,900 students.



Following the legislation of [Proposal A](#) in 1994, concerns existed that, over time, the new funding plan could fall short of revenue needs in certain communities. To compensate for the potential need for additional revenues, Proposal A included a provision that ultimately allows Intermediate School Districts, or ISDs, to levy millage funding to be distributed 100 percent on a per-pupil basis to every constituent K-12 school district and public school academy within that ISD.

More recently, two studies have been conducted on pupil funding. In June 2016, the State of Michigan Legislature sponsored The [Michigan Education Finance Study](#) with a recommended base funding of \$8,667 per pupil. In January 2018, the [School Finance Research Collaborative](#) recommended that every district receive base funding of \$9,590 per pupil. Both studies are well above what Hudsonville currently receives in state funding (\$7,871). Hudsonville Public Schools has several needs that this millage would help support. Our priority with these funds would focus on transportation needs, mental health support, increase technology, and student safety.

Voters will decide on the proposal on the November 6 ballot. We will be holding informational meetings throughout the district, with general meetings at Baldwin Middle School on October 9th at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm and at Riley Street Middle School on October 15th at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. More information can be found on our website (hudsonvillepublicschools.org). Those seeking additional information are encouraged to contact me at 616-669-1740.

Respectfully,

Dr. Doug Vanderjagt
Superintendent



Gum Wars!

Bauer fifth grade students set out to do a scientific investigation that has puzzled millions of people for years. Which type of bubble gum is actually the best for blowing bubbles? Students became scientists when focusing on dependent, independent, and control variables to support the integrity of the investigation. Unfortunately, the debate lives on, but its certainly not due to lack of discussion and data interpretation! We were left with more questions and ideas for further investigations.



Pump Up Your Brain!

Mr. Heagle and Mr. Greg came to South School to “pump - you up!” Pump up the brain that is! South students are taking pride in learning how their brain is a growing organism and that with perseverance and hard work their brain will grow as their bodies grow, too. A positive growth mindset compared to a fixed mindset will be the focus this year as students continue to take PRIDE within their school day.



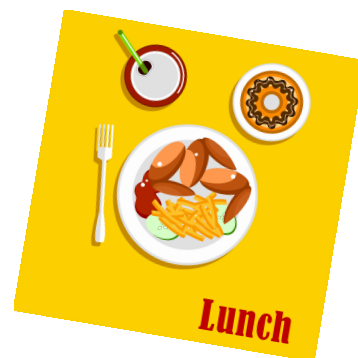
Food Service FYI

A new Free/Reduced Meals Application must be filled out every year. If your family had benefits last year, there is a 30-day (school day) grace period to re-apply. This year's grace period will END on October 10.

If there is not a new application for your student by October 10, your student will have to pay full price for lunches, and you will be responsible for paying any negative balances that occur. You can apply online at lunchapp.com or pick up an application from any school office. If you have any questions, please contact Food Service at (616) 457-2400 or email us at foodservice@hpseagles.net.

If you are not receiving emails from Food Service, here are some helpful tips:

- Check your spam or junk email. Mark us as friendly!
- Update your email address! Your school administrative assistant can update this information in PowerSchool, which then gets added to your student's lunch account.

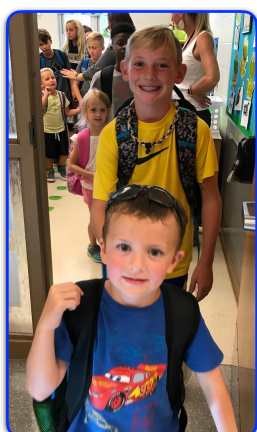




MODELING THE WAY IN FIFTH GRADE AT GEORGETOWN!

It has always been the privilege for fifth graders to work with younger students at Georgetown Elementary! Beginning on the first day of school, teachers coordinate and pair up kindergartners with some wise and experienced fifth graders to help model the way.

Each day before dismissal, the oldest students in the building walk down the hallway to meet their excited buddies. Once inside rooms, the pairs chat with their buddies to build on an established relationship foundation that will last for the duration for the year. They share about their days, what they have learned, and any other exciting things that occurred during the day. Fifth graders help tidy up work spaces and put up chairs for their buddies before they exit to the busses and head home.



Once lined up, older students either hold hands or grab the backpacks of their buddies to maintain safety in and around the pickup areas, as well as assist with navigating the way towards the busses. Once at the student's bus, the pairs high-five or wave goodbye and separate for the afternoon.

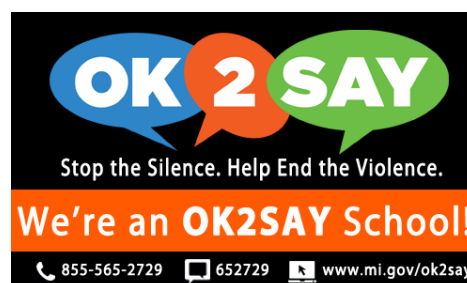
Another activity that many fifth graders enjoy is participating in the school safety program. There are already many students wanting to be safeties for our school. These students fill out safety application forms that ask them how they have been a responsible, trustworthy, and caring person. In addition, they are required to get signatures from parents and teachers indicating that they demonstrate those qualities. Hats off to these students for taking initiative and accepting responsibility for those around them!

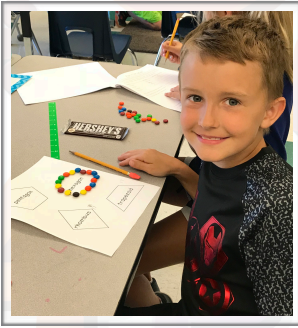
Our fifth graders are also helping out daily in the lunchroom. On a rotating basis, one student from each classroom is staying a few minutes after lunch to help wipe down the lunchroom tables. What a great way for our students to contribute while helping keep our school building clean! All of the fifth grade teachers at Georgetown have been very impressed by the leadership qualities that we have seen in our fifth grade students this year. Keep up the good work by leading the way, fifth graders!



Stay Connected!

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





Chocolate + Math = Delicious!

Third graders at Bauer Elementary celebrated Milton Hershey's birthday on September 13. By using all types of different kinds of chocolate, students were engaged with various math activities. They learned about area, perimeter, weight, and time. We, of course, enjoyed eating chocolate as well.

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



The "SOAR Board" at Jamestown Upper Elementary

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



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, put their dot on the board, and then 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.



Looking for Rockstars! ~ Come join our team!

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

All training is provided.

Drivers start as substitutes with hours from 2 - 25 per week and can develop into permanent part-time positions.

Applicants can fill out an application on our web site at hudsonvillepublicschools.org

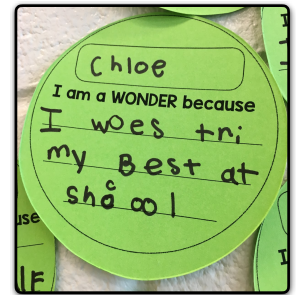


We're All Wonders

This year at Jamestown Lower, our theme is We're All Wonders. The students and staff that walk our halls have so many things about them that make them wonders! We're using the book We're All Wonders by R.J. Palacio to help us recognize all the ways we are unique and worth celebrating.



Each student and staff member filled out a wonder card to be added to our school-wide Wonder Tree. This mural serves as a reminder to our students of the many wonders that walk our halls each day. In addition to this, students were invited to bring in a photograph of themselves and one of the ways they are a wonder. The display cases at Jamestown Lower are filled with photographs of our students being their fantastic, wonderful selves!



Alward Kicks Off Their Student Champion Character Ed Program

In September, we kicked off our character education program by introducing students to the Alward Student Champion character traits during an all-school assembly. This year, students will be working on exhibiting these traits in and out of school. The Character Education Committee did a phenomenal job getting students excited about the traits by getting into "character." Students were introduced to the traits by our hostess, Smiley O'Reilly (Mrs. LePard). The traits included Ms. Always Polite (Ms. Baker), Mrs. Always Listening (Mrs. Harmsen), Ms. Willing to Be Helpful (Ms. VanSlooten), Mrs. Sunny Positivity (Mrs. Bandstra), Ms. Respect (Mrs. VanderWall) and Ms. Daring To Care (Ms. Terpstra). The assembly was dj'd by none other than DJ Stoke Jam (Ms. Stokes). At the end of the assembly, the traits, students, and staff sang the Alward Pledge Song which includes all of the character traits! All students were given a booklet of the Student Champion character traits to discuss as a class and take home to share with their families! Each month, one student will be nominated by each teacher as the Student Champion of the Month and receive an Alward Student Champion medal for their efforts! We are excited to see all the great things that our students do at Alward and out in the community representing our school!





30 SECOND TIMEOUT “CAN WE TEACH SPORTSMANSHIP?”

~By Kevin Wolma, Athletic Director

“A poorly officiated game lends itself to bad sportsmanship.” This was a comment I received from a parent after a contest in which many penalties were called. My first thought after hearing this was how easy it is to use officiating as an excuse for behaviors that occur during the course of a game. Upon further reflection, I realized that, unfortunately, this parent’s comment contained some truth. Time and time again we see how coaches and players react to what they feel are bad calls. We have witnessed rough games in which players are on the edge of “dirty” play, often accompanied by inappropriate “trash” talk to opponents and sometimes even officials. We may acknowledge that this happens, but it does not make these actions acceptable. The question we must ask is this: Do we intentionally teach sportsmanship or do we just expect that our student athletes know what it means? By definition, sportsmanship means fair and generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in a sports contest. The key word in that definition is *behavior*. Our behavior is ultimately our choice. In order to display proper behavior in adverse situations, we must develop a moral intelligence. Moral intelligence is simply the values that make up our character. In a contest which begins to unravel, not all participants are emotionally unstable. In fact, most of the participants act with high character and integrity through the adversity. Those athletes who choose to do the right thing do so because they have developed a moral compass derived from their values. Those athletes who have yet to establish values do not know how to act in those situations and have a tendency to let their emotions get the best of them.

So the question then becomes, “How do we teach sportsmanship?” As adults, our first task is to model the behavior. I have been to many games where the coaches yell negatively toward the officials which, in return, riles up the crowd and eventually rubs off on the athletes on the field. Negativity breeds negativity. In sports where there is no official, the adults are even more at fault for creating a negative environment by comments they make which can be heard by their child’s actual opponents. On the golf

course, I have witnessed parents intimidate opponents by how close they stand to them or making noise during shots. In tennis, I have witnessed parents cheering opponents’ mistakes or calling balls in and out for their son or daughter when that job is strictly for the participants. What we model as parents ends up enhancing the behavior that takes place during the course of competition.

The next step to intentionally teaching sportsmanship is openly talking about this subject at home: discussing instances of firsthand positive examples of sportsmanship, while also discussing instances of poor behavior. From those examples, we can challenge our kids with different scenarios on how they would respond. While sitting at the dinner table, we can present our children with hypothetical situations: What would you do if someone spits in your face? What would you do if someone called you a racial slur or what would you do if you know your opponent is cheating during the course of competition? All of these scenarios are real, so having a course of action before they occur will prepare our sons and daughters to act accordingly with moral intelligence. Values are developed through these very important conversations at home. There are plenty of positive stories of sportsmanship all over the world, but there is also a growing number of poor decisions happening on a daily basis in youth sports and beyond. Sportsmanship is a behavior that requires an action. Each action requires a choice. What choices are we going to make that will allow our kids to grow and be transformed by the sport they choose to play? By making the right choice, we can also ensure the environment at each event is a positive one for the players, coaches, officials, and spectators. Yes, we can teach sportsmanship! Let’s all make the right choice!

