



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Just over a year ago, we were clearly entering a time of uncertainty and trepidation. Spring break plans were being canceled, stores were closing down, and we were being forced to modify our social lives. We knew very little about COVID-19 and the health implications it would have on our most vulnerable population. This past year has proven to be challenging, but we also have a reason for optimism as we see this pandemic coming to an end. We are not out of the woods yet; however, there is certainly an assurance that we will maintain in-person learning as vaccinations become readily available. This past year we have been able to navigate this pandemic while still moving our district forward. With new construction beginning throughout the district, 1 to 1 device deployment nearly completed, and plans in place for supporting our staff and students, we certainly have a lot of optimism in the air.

It is always our priority that all students learn in a supportive learning environment and receive the instruction and opportunities necessary to participate in a diverse global society. To advance our efforts in ensuring these priorities are met for all students, our administrative team has recently begun to engage in professional development on the topics of implicit bias and cultural bandwidth. Additionally, through the support of committee work and consultation services, we are actively developing action steps to advance the district's goals related to supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our schools. Although we are at the beginning stages of this work, we look forward to extending our district's awareness, knowledge, and skills in these important areas.

You may be hearing in the news media that schools are receiving considerable financial resources to continue to support COVID-19 operational and instructional realities. These funds are truly needed, but I want to clarify how the distribution of funds differs from district to district. To date, any federal assistance has been allocated based on local census poverty data creating substantial inequities across the state. Funds were distributed in three different series, CARES I, II, and III (also known as ESSER funds). Some districts in the state will receive substantially more than Hudsonville Public Schools. Some of them include Detroit Public (\$808.5 million), Grand Rapids (\$73.9 million), Kentwood (\$15.7 million), West Ottawa (\$6.2 million), and Grandville (\$3.1 million). Hudsonville Public Schools will receive approximately \$983,000 from the most recent COVID relief package, CARES III. Per student, this means that Hudsonville Public Schools will receive the 3rd lowest amount of all districts in the state of Michigan. As of this spring, we are slated to spend approximately 5.5 million dollars on COVID-19 specific operational and instructional supports for the 2020-2021 school year. With the combination of all federal funding, we were able to provide a virtual learning environment this year. However, as we proceed with the realities and uncertainties of the pandemic's continued impact, it is necessary to prioritize the use of the COVID-19 supplemental funds. Hudsonville Public Schools will use these funds for three primary priorities: providing virtual learning for our most medically vulnerable students, ensuring safe environments through the continued purchase of cleaning supplies, and added staff to increase the social-emotional support for all students. Moving forward, if the trajectory of the pandemic remains consistent, we will not be able to provide our Eagle Virtual online program next year to the general population.

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Construction is set to begin at the high school this spring. Fencing around the new choir room is up, and demo/footings/pouring walls will take place in the following weeks. The fencing for the connector between the high school and freshman campus is also in place, and demo/footings/pouring footings will begin during spring break. It is very exciting to see this work starting on our high school campus. The new choir room is slated to be complete by the end of this calendar year, and the high school connector will be completed during the 2022-2023 school year. To follow with current construction timelines and photos, please visit [HPSbondprojects.com](https://www.hpsbondprojects.com) for updated information. You will find details regarding all the construction projects taking place.

Finally, please also be aware of an upcoming vote this spring. On May 4, Hudsonville Public School parents and community members will have the chance to vote on our annual Non-Homestead Millage renewal. This is an annual renewal request that voters have approved for the past 26 years and would generate approximately 5.5 million dollars of operating revenue for our school district. Please note, this is not a tax on primary residences and is not a new tax. Please vote that day.

This year has certainly been unique, but we continue to plan for a great future. As we anticipate a normal start to the school year next year, we have finalized our district calendar with school starting on Monday, August 23. You can find the complete calendar posted on our [website](#).

I know this year has been tough on all of us. I want to share my sincere appreciation for the continued partnership as our school community and parent community work together in hopes of getting on the other side of the pandemic stronger together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Doug VanderJagt
Superintendent

Subscribe to our blog to follow along with updates that showcase new additions and renovations to district facilities, including a new 5/6 building, new gymnasiums, additional classrooms to connect the High School and Freshman campuses, and substantial building improvements.

www.hpsbondprojects.com


Hudsonville Public Schools

**CONSTRUCTION
UPDATES**

Check out our blog and follow along with current and upcoming projects.

[WWW.HPSBONDPROJECTS.COM](https://www.hpsbondprojects.com)



Class of 2021 Information

At the time of this publication, grades were still being calculated. We look forward to showcasing our Top Honor Graduates in the May issue of *The Appleseed*.



Teamwork and Creative Solutions Help Local Organizations

This year futurePREP'd piloted a Middle School Academy program based on their futurePREP'd High School Academy. Hudsonville Public Schools was well-represented by two teams from Riley Street Middle School.

Teams of students worked with local organizations for eight weeks to learn about the organization and answer the question, "How might we help someone belong in our community?" Each team was tasked with designing a solution to answer the driving question for their partner organization. Once they decided on their results, they crafted "pitches" to present their explanations back to their organization for feedback.



Mrs. Guikema and Miss Proulx were fortunate to work with students Arlexia Abioye, Isabella DeWent, Isaac DeWent, Presley Keas, Drew Meerman, and Mia Munoz to help West Michigan Works think of ways to help people feel more welcome in the West Michigan community. After interviewing stakeholders and considering what they learned, these students developed a solution to better connect people in the West Michigan community with an app that would be called *Explore West MI Community*. West Michigan Works would sponsor this app, and it would include links--organized by nature, entertainment, food, and learning--to upcoming, local events that would be appropriate for all different people in our community.

Mrs. Biondo was proud to work with students Ava Gardner, Adiline Poortenga, Tessa VendeBunte, and Caitlyn VanDerKolk as a part of a cross-county team with Holland Middle School. To get more people at Ottawa County Parks, their solution was to team up with area schools to host a 'Parks Fair' where students would advertise the unique qualities of each Ottawa County park and various park events that reach out to specific cultural groups to ensure that everyone feels welcome.

These students demonstrated that with creative thinking, teamwork, and hard work, excellent solutions to complex questions are possible!

Stay Connected!



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



MARCH IS READING MONTH CELEBRATIONS AT GEORGETOWN

Georgetown is celebrating "March is Reading Month" with the building-wide theme, "Saddle Up and Read!" Our students have been engaging in numerous activities encouraging and celebrating reading throughout the month, including dress-up days, themed snacks to have while reading, and weekly prizes (books, of course) for those that meet their weekly reading goals. GES classrooms also participated in a "Door Decorating Contest." GES students took the theme and used it to design and decorate their classroom



doors. The contest culminated with some "celebrity" judges going through and choosing a winner from each of our three pods. Mrs. Cooley's students took home the prize in our K/1 hallway, Mrs. Houtstra's class was our 2/3 winner, and Mrs. Estefan's room was our 4/5 winner. Ms. Yankee's 2nd-grade classroom was also chosen as an honorable mention. All of the students did a tremendous job! March is Reading Month also features "Mystery Readers" in many of our classrooms and others that are participating in "Book Brackets," where they have their favorite books, go head-to-head to see which is the most popular in that classroom. It's a great way to celebrate reading and have some fun as the students wind their way through March and toward spring break!



Career Connections at Hudsonville High School

CAREER CONNECTIONS IS LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS!

Help inform students as they begin to explore, plan, and launch into post-secondary college and career opportunities.



CAREER CONNECTIONS IS LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS!

Career Connections is a program at our high school that provides experiences to help inform students as they begin to explore, plan, and launch into post-secondary college and career opportunities. At Career Connections, students have an opportunity to hear from guest speakers and engage with community members from a wide range of professions and backgrounds. If you are willing to speak at a session about your career field or would like more information, please contact Chad Sytsma at csytsma@hpseagles.net



KINDERGARTEN COUNTING COLLECTIONS



Each week in kindergarten we work with Counting Collections. Counting Collections provide a fun, hands-on opportunity for kindergarteners to practice oral counting and develop efficient counting strategies with manipulatives. Students are able to group objects in strategic ways, record numbers, and represent their thinking. This activity is easily differentiated for student interest and abilities, using different types of objects, and using smaller or larger collections.



Students at the Early Childhood Center are Blossoming as Spring Approaches

The ECC celebrates SOAR behavior by using the painted trees in the hallways to display the positive choices our students are making each day. In the winter, snowflakes full of positive choices fill our trees. As the warm weather approaches - those snowflakes are replaced by green leaves to usher in the spring season.



The youngest students of HPS are rockstars at making great choices at school! We are so proud of their ability to be safe, own their behavior, act responsibly, and be respectful toward others.



ATHLETIC BOOSTER FUNDRAISER



The Hudsonville Athletic Boosters is holding a Spring Plant & Hanging Basket Scholarship Fundraiser. Visit their website at hudsonvilleathleticboosters.com to view the various options and place your order. Order deadline is April 19th, pickup is May 5th.



The Hudsonville Athletic Boosters strives to promote sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork and a strong work ethic both on the field & in the classroom among our student-athletes. We purchase uniforms, equipment, and make improvements beyond what the school athletic budgets provides.



WILD ABOUT READING!

Bauer is going "Wild About Reading" to celebrate March is Reading Month. Throughout March, there are many fun activities planned to get kids excited about reading. Each week students are recording the number of minutes read. For every 100 minutes read, a new chain is added to their class vine. Each classroom also decorated its door in a safari animal theme.



Doors included facts about their animal, and the whole school went on a trivia scavenger hunt to each of the doors.

Additionally, each week during recess, safari animals are hidden on the playground for students to find and exchange for a prize. We will conclude the month with a safari-themed spirit week and a "Read & Feed" the day before spring break.



MOTIVATED READERS AT PARK ELEMENTARY

Park Elementary kindergarteners have become motivated little readers with the help of RAZ-Kids. Raz-Kids is an award-winning website that Park Parent Club purchased for our young learners to use. Raz-Kids has over 400 ebooks for them to read! Students love going on Raz-Kids, and it has been a fantastic way to get leveled books into our student's hands! Raz-Kids has some great features the students have enjoyed. Students can listen, read, and even record themselves reading. At the end of each story, students can take a mini-quiz to check for comprehension and have a chance to earn stars for added motivation. With this site, Park kindergarten students have been able to read anywhere - at school, home, or even on the go! They will even be able to continue to use this site over the summer! It has been great to see kids falling in love with reading!



Innovation in Education Award

Do you know a Hudsonville teacher or staff member who has shown innovation in his/her teaching methods and classroom activities?

The Hudsonville Education Foundation is taking nominations April 1 to May 31 for the Innovation in Education Award. Find out more about previous winners and nominate an educator:

Innovation in Education Award

The HEF will be seeking to hire an Executive Director very soon. Please watch our website for more information: hudsedfound.org

Please consider supporting the HEF and HPS while you shop on Amazon Smile!



STUDENT LEAD FUNDRAISER FIGHTS HUNGER

In February, Mrs. Lindman’s class decided they wanted to do some kind of fundraiser to support people in our community. This fundraiser was completely led by the kids who met with Hand2Hand staff on Zoom, planned ways to promote our Snack Drive across the building, collected snacks, and stuffed 511 bags to give to kids to fight weekend hunger. We had a blast stuffing all of the bags and loading them up into the Hand2Hand truck!

Parent to Parent Meeting

Q&A Thursday, April 15

6:30PM-8:00PM via Zoom

2021

Your Questions Answered

Join the Parent Advisory Committee and a panel of special education directors from Ottawa Area ISD and local districts to hear answers to your special education related questions. Register now to submit your questions around topics such as FAPE, your child’s IEP team, specially designed instruction or whatever you have been curious about in relation to your child’s education.

Thursday, April 15, 2021
6:30PM-8:00PM
via Zoom
Register by April 9

Registration required to receive Zoom conference link and submit questions.

For additional information contact:

Jessica Domingues, Director of Special Education Compliance & Technical assistance,
jdomingu@oaisd.org
Maryanne Manderfield, President, PAC
mbmanderfield@gmail.com

About PAC

You have support on issues involving your child. It helps to know there is an organization like the PAC, through which parents have a voice for their opinions and concerns. The PAC is a group of parents who have children with a disability and receive special education services. Members, representing each district, are chosen upon recommendation of an administrator, approved by local school district boards, and final authority to appoint members rests with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District Board.

The PAC strives to represent the interest and concerns of students with special needs and their parents. It also strives to promote partnership between parents, student, the local school district, and the OAISD by facilitating communication and cooperation.

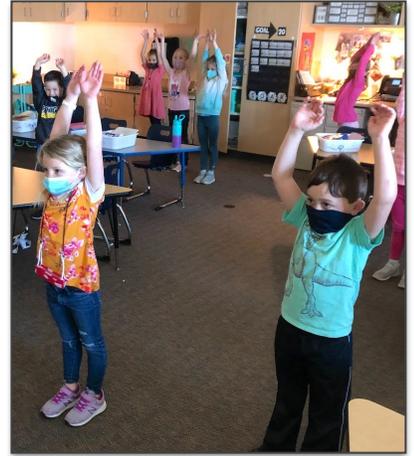
The PAC:

- Stresses cooperation between parents, school personnel, and other service providers.
- Listens and offers support to parents of special education students.
- Encourages, advises, and processes information for parents of special education students.



JLE IS A C.A.T.C.H. SCHOOL

Jamestown Lower is excited to share that we are a C.A.T.C.H. School! C.A.T.C.H. stands for Coordinated Approach to Child Health and is a partnership with Spectrum Health and our elementary school. Each month, our students get a virtual lesson put on by Spectrum Nurses, where they can participate using Kahoot!, online classroom quizzes, and video. It's a highly engaging option for this year when we cannot



have our nurses visit our classrooms in person. Students learn about Go!, Slow!, and Whoa! foods, drinking lots of water, and staying active. Teachers model these healthy practices for their students as well, so students can CATCH them choosing Go! foods and drinking water instead of pop or juice. These lessons help combat childhood obesity, teach healthy habits to our children, and communicate with our families and community sharing what we've learned. We are loving making healthy choices at Jamestown Lower!

Healthy and Giving Hearts at South Elementary

All of the South Elementary students have been making their hearts healthy by doing several jump rope skills in PE class. Along with making our own hearts healthy, we have participated in a fundraiser and helping others' hearts through the American Hearts Association! We raised \$6,638.68 as a school!

Way to be so caring and compassionate South kids!



REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022 ONGOING



HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PK/KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

WHY CHOOSE US?

BUILD YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE HERE

- Great Kids!
- Exceptional staff!
- Outstanding results!

Online registration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year is now available. To be eligible, children must be five years of age on or before December 1, 2021.

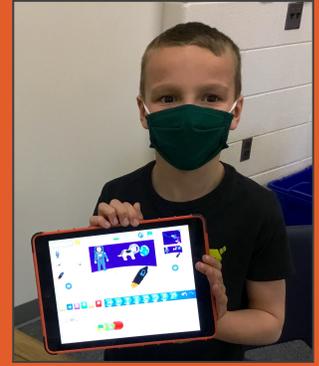
REACH US AT:
616-669-1740
hudsonvillepublicschools.org
eagles@hpseagles.net





FULL STEAM AHEAD!

We are loving our new one-to-one technology in STEAM here at Park Elementary! It has been truly amazing to see how quickly students are catching onto exciting new ways to enhance their learning using computers in class. Our younger students have been working on computer programming with the iPads, while our older students are now tracking data and completing scientific investigations completely online. ScratchJr. and Typing.com are just a few of the apps we use in school that are available to download for free at home. Happy learning!



Hudsonville Community Education News

The annual Hudsonville Community Education summer brochure will be sent home with your kids after they arrive back from spring break. We are very excited about being able to have some fun activities for your kids to do.



Below are some of the offerings that we have lined up:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Action Wake Park Field Trip | Babysitting Class | Baseball |
| Basketball | Lego Engineering | Broadway Bootcamp |
| Diving | Fencing | Football Camps |
| Golf Lessons | Gymnastics | HEAT Swim team |
| Hockey | Home Alone Class | Lacrosse |
| Intro to Competitive Robotics | Lap Swim | Learn to Wakeboard |
| Robotics, Coding, Electronics | Robot Building | Soccer Buddies |
| Softball | Stunt Camp | Swim Lessons |
| Tae Kwon Do | Tennis | Tuesday Camps |
| USA Tennis League | Virtual Reality (VR) | Volleyball |

For a sneak peek and to register, visit hudsonvillepublicschools.org

Please note that we will follow the COVID protocols that are in place at the time of the class or camp.

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