



HESPERIA PANTHERS

WINTER 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

Mid-Winter Break

February 24

Parent Teacher Conferences

April 1 - 2

Spring Break

April 4 - 11

Good Friday

April 18

Memorial Day

May 26

DELAYED START DATES

February 5,19,26

March 12,19,26

April 2,16,23,30

May 7,14,21,28

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

854-6185 Phone
854-1586 Fax

Hesperia Community Schools Receives Performance Based Bonus

Hesperia Community Schools was informed by the Michigan Department of Education that it was one of only fourteen districts in the state to receive the full performance based bonus for 2013-2014. The concept for "bonus" funding for schools originated in 2011 through an agreement between State Superintendent, Mike Flanagan, and Governor Snyder. The final bill was signed in July 2012, included many revisions, and was added to the budget for 2013-2014.

The requirement for attaining the additional funding is based primarily on student growth and improvement, not solely on student proficiency. The intent is to provide incentives for districts who achieve student growth. All districts in Michigan are eligible to receive this performance based bonus, which has a maximum of \$100 per student. Districts can earn all or a portion of this funding, based on student performance and divided as follows:

\$30 for mathematics in elementary and middle schools

\$30 for reading in elementary and middle schools

\$40 for all tested subjects in the high school

Hesperia Community Schools received the entire amount for 2013-2014. "We are extremely proud of our district and the academic growth achieved over the past few years." said Jeffery Haase, Superintendent.

New Technology for Elementary Students

Patricia St. Clair Elementary has been awarded a grant from Great Lakes Energy to purchase an electronic interactive white board. The white board will be installed in the computer lab and used by all elementary teachers and students.

This new technology will enable students to learn in an engaging way by being able to manipulate the subject that they are studying. Color graphics, audio and video accentuate learning with a 3D type of experience for all learners.

Hesperia Community Schools is grateful to Great Lakes Energy Cooperative for the opportunity to purchase new technology for our elementary school students.



Hesperia



Panthers



Superintendent's Message

With the transition to the Common Core State Standards and the next generation assessments, Hesperia Community Schools has developed a District Literacy Plan with the primary focus to prepare students for the challenges of college and career readiness in the 21st century. Over the past 10 months a team of teachers, support staff, business leaders, community leaders and parents have met monthly to review, discuss and develop the District Literacy Plan.

This initiative is based on the "Taking Action Literacy Leadership Model" that was developed through a project funded by the Carnegie Corporation. The model is designed to answer "What do literacy leaders need to do to successfully improve student literacy and learning in all grades?"

Literacy is far more than basic reading, as the Common Core calls on districts to ensure students can read, write and speak at much higher levels. Additionally, all students are now required to read, analyze and produce graphs, charts, pictures, maps, images and words in both fiction and nonfictional texts from a very young age.

Literacy is the KEY to academic success in all content areas and essential for all students of Hesperia Community Schools. It is our responsibility to prepare every student for college or career readiness prior to their high school graduation.

This committee has spent countless hours looking at the current state of literacy within our district, developing a vision, formulating improvement goals, creating action steps, and developing systems to monitor success and expectations for Hesperia Community Schools. This District Literacy Plan will provide a path for our district to follow throughout the next three years.

Jeffery Haase, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President	Matt Joppich
Vice President	Jim Lavin
Secretary	Ryan Good
Treasurer	Pat Budde, Business Manager
Trustee	Karen Kasankiewicz
Trustee	Dr. Jeffrey Thome
Trustee	Kim McClernan
Trustee	Scott Wenberg

IMPORTANT SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

Superintendent.....	854-6185
Administration Office	854-6185
School Nurse.....	854-6715
Elementary Office.....	854-6615
Middle School Office.....	854-6475
High School Office.....	854-6385
Adult & Community Education	854-1044
Transportation	854-9301
Lunch Room.....	854-0509
Athletics.....	854-7100
Technology Office	854-6068

2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE - ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM

January 27, 2014	February 24, 2014	March 31, 2014	April 28, 2014
May 19, 2014	June 30, 2014	July 28, 2014	August 25, 2014
September 29, 2014	October 27, 2014	November 24, 2014	December 22, 2014

Skyward Student Progress Reports



Hesperia Community Schools will provide academic progress reports every Monday to parents or guardians to those who have provided valid email addresses. These progress reports will be for all secondary students. If you

would like to receive these, please email Mr. LaPrairie (High School/Middle School Principal) with your email address.

MR. LAPRARIE'S EMAIL

www.laprairied@hesp.net

School Safety

Please note that the elementary school day starts at 7:55 AM and supervision will not be

provided until 7:45 AM, when bus students will be dropped off. Students will be supervised outside (weather permitting) until 7:50 AM, when they will be allowed into the school where Universal Breakfast will be served in each classroom. It is essential for teachers and staff to have time in the morning to prepare and serve breakfast.

Elementary students are released at 3:15 PM. Please plan to be at school and waiting for your child outside or in the front entrance. If your child needs to be picked-up prior to 3:15 PM, please sign them out in the office and they will be called down from their classroom. If your child plans to go home in a different way than normal, please be sure to send a note in advance. This will allow for a smooth transition for everyone.



School Lunch Information

Hesperia Community Schools participates in the Universal Breakfast Program, which provides breakfast for all students at no cost. For a link to your child's account hot lunch account, please visit our website at www.hesp.net or www.lunchdeposit.com. You can apply for free and reduced lunch, review your child's account history and make payments using a credit card.

For further information, please contact Deb Muckey at 854-0509.



2013-2014 HOT LUNCH PRICES

ELEMENTARY - \$1.50
MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$1.75
HIGH SCHOOL - \$1.75

Readers on the Prowl



Parents and staff members from Hesperia Community Schools have collaborated to create the **Readers on the Prowl** mobile library. The purpose of this initiative is to provide a summer literacy opportunity for students within Hesperia. **Readers on the Prowl** will provide children easy access to books, hopefully result in a reduced summer reading loss, increase student achievement and create an excitement for literacy.

Between first and sixth grades, children can experience the equivalent of 1.5 years of reading development set-back if they are not exposed to books (Cooper, Nye, Charlton, Lindsay and Greathouse). Research has found that reading as little as four or five books during the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement and that reading books was the only activity consistently related to summer learning (Kim, 2004). Additionally, we hope **Readers on the Prowl** will enhance the students' excitement

for literacy. School personnel and parent volunteers will travel in the mobile library and children will have the opportunity to earn incentives each time they visit. **Readers on the Prowl** will be available to all children regardless of age or school affiliation.

The start-up costs for refurbishing the bus are estimated to be approximately \$15,000. The cost to purchase books for the bus is estimated to be \$5,000. Once **Readers on the Prowl** is created, we will have annual operating costs, which will include a driver, bus maintenance and fuel, additional books and an annual year-end celebration. Grants and tax-free community donations are being sought, and book collection boxes will be available in local businesses. A donation level was created in order to recognize community donors on the outside of the mobile library for two years. Donation levels and decal information include:

Book Donation Level	Lettering Size	Financial Donation Level	Lettering Size
50 - 100 Books	2" Lettering	\$50 - \$100	2" Lettering
101 - 200 Books	3" Lettering	\$101 - \$200	3" Lettering
201 - 300 Books	4" Lettering	\$201 - \$300	4" Lettering
301 - 400 Books	5" Lettering	\$301 - \$400	5" Lettering
401+ Books	8" Lettering	\$401+	8" Lettering

Please consider partnering with Hesperia Community Schools in order to make **Readers on the Prowl** a reality. With the support from you and other sponsors our mobile library will truly become a community effort benefiting all Hesperia children.



High School and Middle School News

Since our first day of school in September, both middle and high school students and staff have maintained a fast and steady pace leading into our Holiday break! There have been many events and activities this Fall semester that have provided students with positive memories for this 2013-14 school year.

At both the middle and high school, we have initiated a Student Advisory Council that meets 1-2 times per month for the purpose of increasing student voice in the overall operation of our schools. All students have the opportunity to participate in this activity following initial student signups back in September for high school and in October for middle school students. Students that participate are able to do so for about two months at which time a different group of 24-30 students begins. Prior to the start of a new group, all students will once again be able to sign up in the main offices. There has never been a need to set an agenda for these meetings as students are consistently open, honest and enthusiastic in their feelings and opinions on how we can make improvements to student life. This variety and diversity of input will add to students feeling more connected to their school environment and to a better functioning school.



Much work is being accomplished by both our middle school and high school, school improvement teams. Middle school team members include Sherry Golden, Barb Maynard, Lisa Sundburg, Amy Fairchild, Ben Westgate, Sherry Clafin and Lisa Miller. At the high school, Jim Cherry, Mike Fosburg, Jennifer Sherburn, Vince Grodus, Mark Balcom, Mike Blue, Kris Waalkens and Steve Hussey. These staff members have contributed much time and effort in working toward making our secondary schools a more challenging and rewarding experience for the students we serve. I am encouraged that focused conversations are taking place regarding curriculum and instruction as well as policies and operational procedures.



Since September, we have observed late start Wednesday's. These are great opportunities for faculty and staff to collaborate on curriculum and teaching strategies as well as for students to sleep in a bit! Our efforts this year have focused on instructional staff working in departments and at grade levels on curriculum alignment and mapping strategies. The completion of this current horizontal curriculum work has been accomplished. Starting in January, 2014, both middle and high school instructional staff will combine for the purpose of identifying a vertical curriculum path as students move from grade level to grade level with a focus, not only on high school completion, but on preparation for college and the daily work force.

In just a few short months, I have observed students in both our middle and high schools that feel safe and accepted in their day to day activities, are involved and contributing in classrooms and at co-curricular events. I have worked with students that are respectful and cooperative with each other and with those teaching and supervising them. In those challenging times, I have observed learning opportunities for students, staff and parents through conversations that lead to a better understanding of how we can make Hesperia secondary schools a better experience for all. Thank you students, staff and parents for welcoming me as your secondary schools principal.

Patricia St. Clair Elementary News



While winter arrived at full speed, the students at Patricia St. Clair Elementary were learning at full speed each and every day. It's hard to believe that half of our school year has once again come and gone. We can look back at the tremendous amount that has been accomplished in the first semester. We can also look forward to exciting learning opportunities of the second semester.

Our students traveled on some pretty cool field trips. Destinations included Heritage Farm, Lewis Farm, Country Dairy Farm, and a Muskegon Lumberjacks hockey game. Our 4th grade students and parents attempted to go to the State Capitol, but were turned back due to inclement weather. They will try again in March. There are many more adventures planned for the spring.

Mr. Arbogast put on another round of successful and rewarding Cross Country races, where so many children gave their all. The Fall Family Literacy Night proved to be a popular event as it was attended by over one-hundred fifty students. We will host another Literacy Night in late February or early March. In November the entire staff participated in serving a free Thanksgiving meal to each and every student. During the lunch we sat and ate with the students as well. This was an tremendously rewarding experience for all of us. Once again Mrs. Baker and her 1st through 4th graders gave a



memorable, humorous, and cheerful Holiday Concert. The Kindergarten students will have their time to shine in the spring.



We continue to employ the Common Core curriculum standards in our classrooms. Our teaching staff has been work diligently during delayed starts to finish their Curriculum Maps based on the Common Core. These maps will allow teachers as well as stakeholders to have the entire curriculum viewable in an easy to use document. In addition, our student achievement data continues to show growth. Our students are making great strides and closing gaps every day.

We have implemented a new literacy program to support student comprehension entitled Making Meaning. Many of the students and teachers are enjoying the Making Meaning books and activities. We hope to have a recommendation from our Math Resource committee for new materials by the end of the school year. These materials will be an aligned program for math K-5 and be fully aligned to Common Core. These are both exciting curriculum initiatives.

Positive Behavior Support and Intervention is a program we are working on fully implementing by the Fall of 14'. PBS will add common language and expectations to our behavior management for students; while rewarding them for following expectations with incentives and positive feedback. It is an exciting and enriching time to be a part of St. Clair Elementary. Patricia St. Clair Elementary is a great place to go to school. It is also a great place to work. Our staff is made up of kind, generous, and tremendously caring Individuals. I am proud to work here and I am very proud to send my children here. As always, if there is anything I can do for you or your child; please don't hesitate to contact me.



Bryan Mey, Elementary Principal

Hesperia Community Education Classes

All classes offered through Hesperia Community Education are provided through volunteer instructors or by class fees and grant funds. If you would like to suggest a class, please contact Cathy Herin at 854-1044. We will be happy to coordinate a program of interest for the entire community.

CPR and First Aid Training

If you are interested in being certified, re-certified or would like more information, call 231-854-1044.

Instructors Wanted

Many Leisure Enrichment Activities are taught by individuals who have experience and special skills in a specific area. However, certification is not always required. If you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share with others, please contact Cathy at 854-1044.

All instructors are required to register through PESG Services and pass a background check.

Driver's Education Classes

All Driver's Education Classes are held at Hesperia High School. If you would like to register or need additional information please contact:

Mr. Blue
Hesperia High School
231-854-6385

**STUDENT
DRIVER**

Hesperia Community Education Adult Education Program

Phone (231) 854-1044

- **Transportation Available**
- **Family Atmosphere with Day Care facility available**

Jump Start Your Future with these convenient programs

- **Adult Basic Education**
- **GED Preparation and Testing**
- **High School Completion**
- **Alternative Education**

**CALL OR STOP IN
TO
ENROLL NOW!!!**

COME LEARN WITH US

Address: 232 S Cook St. Hesperia MI, 49421
Phone: 231-854-1044

Are you a non-high school graduate?

Do you have your GED?

Would you like additional training to further your success in life?

If you are over 20 and have not graduated from high school or you do not have a GED, you need to make an appointment to get the skills to help you succeed.

All of our classes are **FREE!**
Find out how easy it is to **come back to school!**

- 1) **Adult Basic Education** - Innovative, non-graded, planned, self-paced individualized instruction designed to develop basic skills in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and the English Language.
- 2) **GED Preparation** - Individualized and self-paced instruction allows students to proceed at their own rates of learning. Content includes reviews in English, Mathematics, Writing, Social Studies, Science, Literature and the Arts.
- 3) **High School Completion** - This program offers an alternative for students who wish to earn high school credits for a high school diploma. Each student follows an individualized, self-paced instruction guide for each course of credit. Credit is awarded upon successful completion of course requirements and the successful passing of a final assessment for each course.

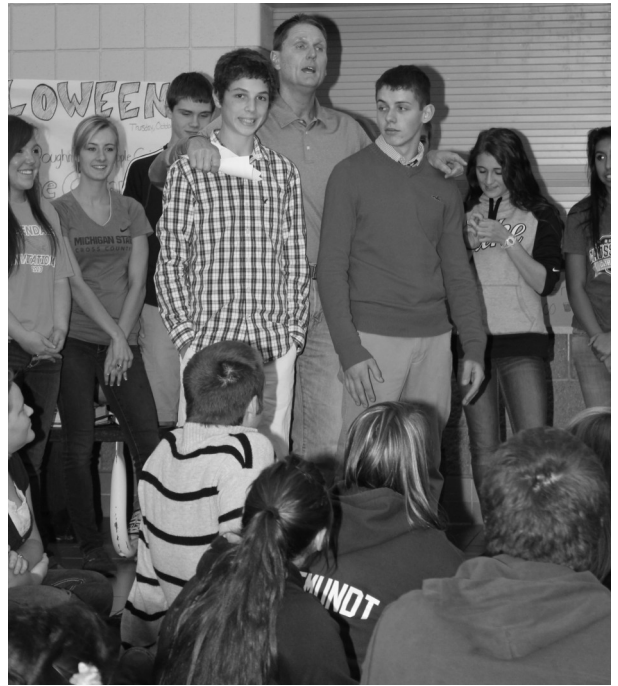


***IF YOU ARE ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAMS
THERE IS NO COST FOR THE GED TESTING**

Hesperia Athletics

The Fall Sports Season has completed at Hesperia and there were many successes on the playing field. In cross country, Junior Damien Halverson was crowned CSAA conference champion. Damien led the boys' team to the CSAA Championship as well. Arik LaFave, Kyle Venne, Isaah Bown, Hunter Rosema, Collin Nielsen and Nathan McKeown all earned all conference honors. The girls finished in a very close 2nd place in the league. Brooke Schooley, Hannah Sperry, Emily Gowin, Victoria Ross, Alex Bieri, Kaycee Jackson, Kayla Purdy-Edgell and Mary Tozer all earned conference honors. Both boys and girls reclaimed the county championships as well.

In volleyball, Lauren Zeerip and Mariah Stitt earned all conference honors. Paige Lavin, Rachel Farber and Lauren Zeerip were awarded Academic All State. The volleyball team held their second annual "Purple Out" for Domestic Violence and raised over \$10,000 to help the cause.



In football, the boys finished the season as 4-5. Couple highlights of the season were maintaining the traveling trophy with a victory over Holton, as well as mlive.com game of the week versus Newaygo in week 5. Elijah Olsen, Brett Salisbury, Caleb McAree, Eldon Graham, Josh Ehrke, and David Jacobs all earned conference honors. Updates to the football field include a new scoreboard.

The winter season is far from over with lots of action on the mat and in the gym left. Come out and support the Panthers as the season winds down. Girls basketball districts will be at home, as well as Team and Individual Wrestling Districts. Boy's basketball districts will be at Shelby. Good luck to all the winter sports and GO PANTHERS!



Hesperia Community Schools

2013-2014 School Calendar

July 2013						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

August 2013						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2013						
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29	30					

October 2013						
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27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2013						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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29	30	31				

January 2014						
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February 2014						
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March 2014						
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30	31					

April 2014						
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May 2014						
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June 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

February 24: Mid-Winter Break

April 4-11: Spring Break

May 29: Community Ed Commencement

March 4-6: MME Testing

April 18: Good Friday

May 30: High School Commencement

April 1 & 2: P/T Conf. 5-8 PM

May 26: Memorial Day

June 5 & 6: Student 1/2 Day



HESPERIA PANTHERS



Visit us online at
www.hesp.net

The mission of Hesperia Community Schools is to provide quality educational opportunities that empower all students to become responsible, enlightened and productive citizens today and in the future.

WE BELIEVE

Education is a lifelong process necessary for achievement of each individual's potential.

Everyone can learn.

In personal and civic responsibility, accountability and mutual respect.

A safe and structured environment is essential to learning.

All students are entitled to quality education that acknowledges individual differences.

VISION

Building to be the best by honoring the past, embracing the present and reaching for the future.

Hesperia Community Schools
96 S. Division
PO Box 338
Hesperia, MI 49421

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