

Winter 2018 School News

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE:

Assessment for Learning

"Have you ever asked your child what they learned in school that day?" Most of the time you may get a blank stare... "School or work amnesia" is pretty common for all of us. Maybe our kids have a similar experience coming home to unwind after a long day. However, you may want to try questioning them again sometime to see if you might get a different response. Teachers have been focusing on teaching students how to self-assess their learning this year.

Self-assessment is one of the many strategies used in the formative assessment process. Formative assessment is a process for checking for understanding. With self-assessment as a focus, you might have heard your student come home and say something like, "I was a 2 at the beginning of class and was a 3 by the end of the period". What students are referring to is a process for them to reflect on their own learning. A 1 means I need a lot of help, or I really don't understand; a 2 means I can do it with teacher or peer help; and a 3 means I got it AND I can teach others.

This process of self-assessment toward a clear learning target makes the intent on learning more focused for students. Its overall effect promotes more engagement in the learning process. Student engagement is one of the most important keys to successful learning.

So, if you have not asked your child lately what they learned in school, try it again. Were they a 1, a 2 or a 3 today? If they don't respond, okay, maybe amnesia is setting in, but be assured that our district is continuing to work toward improving student learning.

Vaughn White
Superintendent



We Support Our Own Connor Strong

Throughout the month of January, Hesperia students and faculty came together to support a current high school student diagnosed with cancer. Rallying in support to Connor Vanbuskirk, students wore "Connor Strong" bracelets and t-shirts. These items were sold and all of the proceeds went to Connor and his family. Walking through the hallways, it is common to see many students wearing these items in support. To help lift Connor's spirits, students and faculty made a video, showing the love we all have for Connor. During the video, Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" was playing and students spelled out "We Love You" on the gym floor. The heartwarming video went viral, and local news stations shared the community's inspiring video. Soon after the video was released to the public, other schools around the area came together with our community to support Connor. Newaygo and Holton High School students bought Team Connor shirts for the basketball teams to wear in support, as well as donating proceeds from some of the basketball games to Connor and his family. All of the support throughout the district has drawn the attention of more local new stations. Our Hesperia community is a team: Together, Everyone Around Matters.



FSU Optometry Students “See” The Importance of their work with Local Students

Article and photo credit goes to Lauren Scafidi, 9&10 News
November 13, 2017

Optometry students at Ferris State University are getting a chance to “see” just how important their work can be.

They’re giving free eye exams to local students as part of their 5th Annual Students In Need of Eyecare, or SINE.

Most of the students are in their third year of optometry school — so this is the first time they’re really getting that hands on experience in their specialty clinics.

“When we are actually practicing with our hands and applying these things we learn in a classroom you learn these things,” said Luke Lorones, a third year optometry student. “It’s life-long learning, it’s not just memorizing something for a test.”

Performing eye exams on kids that are the same young age Luke was when he decided what he wanted to do when he grew up.

“I love it – I love it so much I want to actually do a residency in pediatrics, do a little extra schooling in pediatrics,” Lorones said. “This is actually just my forte, I love the kids, I love their excitement, they’re just incredible.”

Practical experience for these future eye doctors, and a free exam for still developing eyes — thanks to grant money from the Gerber Foundation.

“I’m happy,” said Hailee Chase, in 7th grade. “I love to read a lot and I love to draw, so basically I can move around and see because I remember once I didn’t have my glasses and I went to a beach and I couldn’t see the sunset because everything was blurry.”

As part of SINE, the 38 soon-to-be-professionals each see two different children from Hesperia and Fremont Public Schools who are showing signs of poor vision and potentially in need of prescription eyewear.

“Vision is definitely crucial to learning for these students, so by having this program we are giving these programs to students to help them in their school and education,” said Andrea Shank, pediatric resident and optometrist.

“I can’t even put it into words — it’s awesome,” said Lorones. “Clinic is one of my favorite parts about school it’s just so rewarding it’s incredible really to be a part of a group like this.”

With the grant and help of the Fremont Lions Club, they were also able to pick glasses after so students like Hailee will be able to enjoy the sunset next time she goes to the beach again, or see the board in class.



Students Enjoy Interactive Davenport College Rep Presentation

On November 20, 2017 Ms. Stephanie Sakorafis of Davenport College visited Mrs. Smith’s 2nd hour desktop publishing class to discuss college and career readiness while sharing what Davenport offers with the students. A main portion of the presentation was centered around “10 big reasons to come to our small campus”, which included breaking students into small groups to learn all they could about Davenport and then present their findings to the entire class in a friendly competition. At presentation’s end, two groups “tied” for the win and received Davenport T-shirts as a nice reward.



Left to right: Kevin Schooley, Ellie Palmer, Kurtis Stitt, Caragan Frees, Caleb Sturtevant-Roesly, Alyssa Miller, Cameron Follett, and Makenna Swisher proudly display the T-shirts they earned through exceptional participation in the interactive college presentation.



Oscar Coronado, Justin Alexander, Johnny Segura, Hailey Meyette, and Maeli Cardiff present their findings about Davenport College to classmates in Mrs. Smith’s desktop publishing class.

Post-Secondary Eligibility

Effective April 1, 1996, Public Act 160 and Public Act 258 of 2000, created the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act, commonly referred to as dual enrollment. This law directs school districts to assist students in paying tuition and fees for courses at Michigan public or private colleges or universities. The following are some of the eligibility guidelines/standards: 1. Students in grades 9 through 12 may take up to ten post-secondary courses. 2. Students can qualify for dual enrollment by taking one of the following assessments: PSAT, PLAN, EXPLORE ACT, or MME. 3. The acts do not prohibit a district from supporting any pupil regardless of eligibility under these acts. A district may elect to support college level courses or career preparation courses for any pupil if it is in the best interest of the pupil. 4. Students must be enrolled in both the eligible school (public or private) and eligible post-secondary institution during the local school’s regular academic year and must be enrolled in at least one high school class. 5. The college courses cannot be a hobby, craft, or recreation course, or in the subject areas of physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education. 6. School districts are required to pay an amount equal to the prorated percentage of the statewide pupil-weighted average foundation allowance, based on the proportion of the school year that the eligible student attends the eligible post-secondary institution. Eligible charges include tuition and mandatory course fees, material fees, and registration fees required by an eligible institution for enrollment in the course. Eligible charges do not include transportation or parking costs or activity fees. If you believe you are eligible for dual enrollment, qualify for tuition and fee support, and wish to participate, contact the high school office.



Hesperia High School Staff with the cooperation of Ed's Orchard Market provided Christmas food baskets to area residents.



Hesperia Community Schools celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast for all students and staff.

A Visit from a Past Graduate

One of the joys of teaching is when former students take the time to stop in and visit to let their teachers know what is going on in their lives.

Hesperia alumnus Frank Konkel (HHS 2002) dropped by Mr. Grodus' classes recently to talk to his seniors about what he has been doing since he graduated. Frank has visited Mr. Grodus' classes every year since graduating from Michigan State University in 2006. Each year Frank talks to the seniors and gives a short lecture about how his positive experiences at Hesperia Community Schools gave him the confidence to succeed in college and work.



Frank is currently the Nextgov executive editor for Atlantic magazine in Washington, DC. Between his many appearances on TV and writing



articles that have appeared in USA Today and other important newspapers and magazines, Frank has rubbed elbows with many of our government's most powerful figures. He shared his belief to our students that "being from a small town like Hesperia isn't a barrier; it's a benefit."

The students thoroughly enjoyed Frank's honesty and willingness to answer their questions. Frank emphasized that he got hooked on writing in Mr. Grodus' English 12 class. He reminded the seniors that as long as they show interest in something, there are always

people willing to help them achieve their goals. Mr. David LaPrairie, HHS principal, noted that students found Frank to be "inspiring, down to earth and really cool."

Frank Konkel, and his brothers Gavin, Talon, Broderick, and sister Bronwyn are all former Hesperia graduates with college degrees who are very successful in the business world.

Hesperia Students Present *Mary Poppins* March 9 & 10

If you have been walking through the halls of Hesperia High School or Middle School recently and suddenly found yourself singing, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, and wondered where that came from, you were probably hearing our theatre students in rehearsal for this year's HCS musical, *Mary Poppins*. That's right! Auditions were held in December, the cast was announced during Christmas break, and rehearsals have been underway since the beginning of January for Hesperia Community Schools seventh musical.

Many of us grew up watching Disney's film version every year as it was televised. Just recently the 50th edition of the movie was released. As the 55th anniversary of this beloved musical is coming soon, we thought this would be a great time for our HCS Theatre Department to produce the musical version. If you have yet to attend one of our productions, now would be a good time to start.

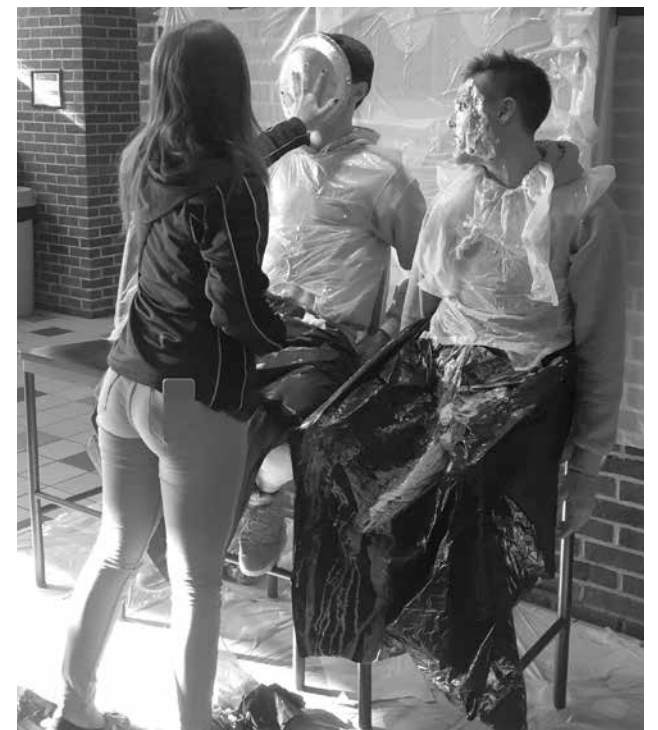
Highlighting over 50 of Hesperia's talented students, *Mary Poppins* will be presented two times in our cafetorium: Friday, March 9th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 10th at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be available at the door. The cost of tickets is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for senior adults 60 and over, \$1.00 for all elementary, middle, and high school students. We look forward to seeing you there!





Touring Grand Valley State University

On Thursday, November 30th, some of our Juniors and Seniors went on a field trip to Grand Valley State University, chaperoned by our College Adviser, Mr. Kabbash. Students learned about Grand Valley State University's various academic programs, sports and extracurricular activities, as well as admission and scholarship information. Students were able to tour Grand Valley's campus and they ended the day with lunch at one of their dining halls."



Hesperia student participated in a charity event while touring campus. Anyone could pie a Grand Valley student for \$1 and the money would be donated to charity.

HESPERIA PINK OUT!

Exceptional **Fabulous** *Fantastic*
 CONGRATULATIONS
Fantastic **Fabulous**
 Terrific **OUTSTANDING**
Fabulous **OUTSTANDING** *Exceptional*
 Terrific

CONGRATULATIONS THE HESPERIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY FOR MAKING IT TO STATE!





The high school student council sponsored a food drive for Thanksgiving.

Perfect Attendance for First Semester



5th Grade: McKenzie Norberg
 6th Grade: Megan Dyer
 7th Grade: Armando Escobedo & Nikkole Frens
 8th Grade: Emma Joppich, Felecia Perry, Kyle Poole, & Taylor Stapel



1st Annual Veterans Day Assembly

To honor those who have served for our country, Hesperia students organized the first annual Veterans Day assembly that was held on November 11th. Hesperia Elementary students decorated five banners that individually displayed "Thank You For Your Service," and students carried the banners into the gymnasium. The veterans, seated in the center of the gymnasium, were welcomed by the middle and high school principal, David LaPrairie. Our band, under the direction of Mrs. Stephanie Purvis, performed the National Anthem. The veterans were presented with cards signed by all middle and high school students. Mrs. Lindsey Walker created a slideshow with pictures from many outside sources. Following the assembly, veterans were invited to stay for refreshments. Veterans, we thank you for your service!



November Students of the Month



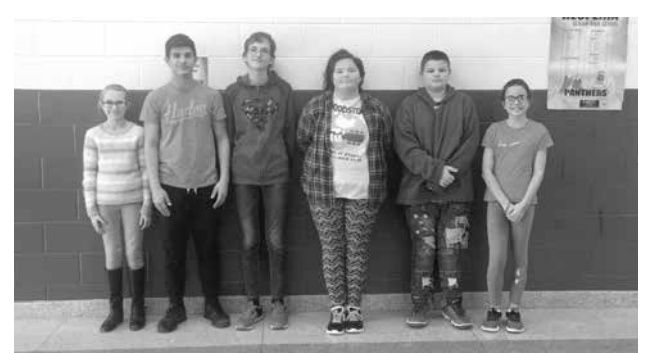
5th Grade: Cameron Cousineau, Ellie Lotz, Skyler Stalbaum, & Myia Woodworth
 6th Grade: Blake Hernandez, Kayleah Jones, & Leticia Pinales
 7th Grade: Noelle Evans, Gabriel Gould, & Travis Kurtz
 8th Grade: Matthew Blanchette, Katelyn Lotz, Joseph Orona, & Paige Sytsma

December Students of the Month



5th Grade: Anderson Boes, Vicente Cruz, Kennedy Mey, & Mckenzie Norberg
 6th Grade: Makenzie Bradfield, Jenna Brown, & Garrett VanAvery
 7th Grade: Riley Dodge, Nikkole Frens, & Tara Helmer
 8th Grade: Emma Joppich, Billy Jordan, Brandon Quinn, & Olivia VanAvery

November & December Art Students of the Month



6th Grade: Kaylea Damrow & Molly Norris
 7th Grade: Allen Anderson & Michael Romero
 8th Grade: Daniel McGahan & Abigail Smith

Middle School/High School Project FOCUS

We have 39 students currently enrolled in our MS/HS program. Technology, engineering, and art activities have been our group's favorites so far this year. Now that the weather has forced us indoors, we have been spending lots of time preparing for the STEAM Challenge that is taking place on Jan. 20th. This event will bring together after school programs from 6 different school districts. We are looking forward to a sledding field trip on Jan. 19th, and are planning to go to Grand Rapids in February for a visit to the Public Museum and also a trampoline park. In February we will be presenting the Junior Achievement Curriculum to our 5th grade group. This program is designed to help students understand their potential and guide them toward their passions and future careers. As usual there is no shortage of hands-on opportunities for the students, and we are planning on doing even more exploration in the coming weeks. 3-D printing, homemade lip balm, baking/cooking, remote controlled cars, sewing, soap making, teambuilding, and mosaic tile are just a few of the projects/clubs that are coming soon!

If you would like to enroll your child, contact Dan Postema at 231-854-6615 ext: 8720 or email dpostema@truenorthservices.org

Science Olympiad:



MS/HS Project FOCUS students prepare to launch their "made from scratch" rockets.

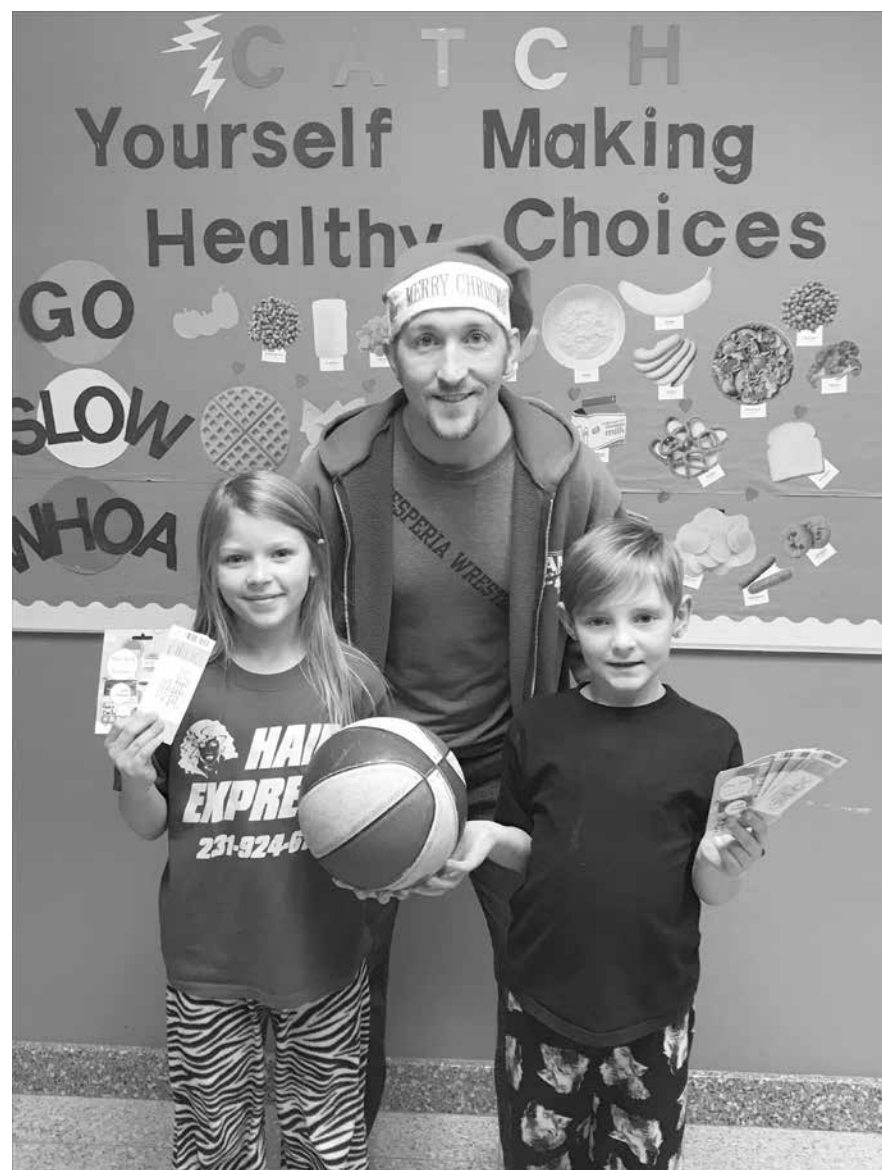
Elementary Project FOCUS

We have 45 students currently enrolled in our Elementary program. The students have enjoyed working with the robots Dash&Dot, CATCH curriculum, MOBY Max, Quizlets, STEAM activities, slime making, Lego Math, team building, cooking lessons, coding activities, learning about the Great Lakes and about archeology so far this year. We have also had a few guest speakers, including our local police and fire department. Our program facilitates the TrueMentors Program, which has about 10 elementary students matched with older mentors. The second graders have been practicing their spelling words a different way each day and will be doing a spelling bee using their spelling words in the middle of February. Students have also been working hard on their future cities for the upcoming STEAM Challenge. They have also been learning about the Great lakes and putting together their wind power car for the challenge. This year will be their fifth year competing against other Project FOCUS sites. We will be continuing our monthly visits to the public library for the rest of the year. In the month of February, kindergartners and second graders will be participating in Junior Achievement. A few of our upcoming lessons will be magical creatures, dental, leprechaun scavenger hunt, yoga, and many more hands on activities. We are looking forward to a great remainder of the year!

If you would like to register your student so they can participate in the fun please contact the site leader, Jennifer Way at 854-6615 ext. 8623 or jway@truenorthservices.org



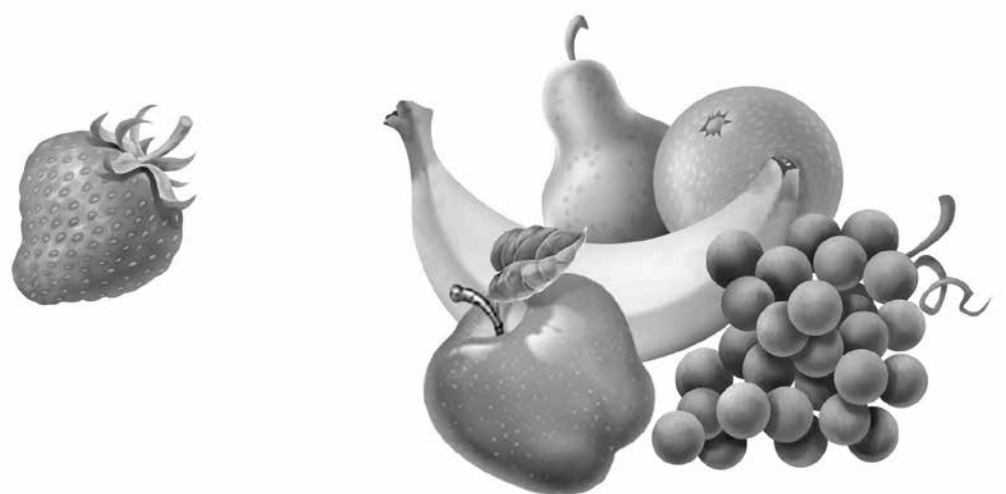
Elementary Project FOCUS Students doing an archeology "dig" in their gridded off area



CATCH Healthy Choices Challenge Winners

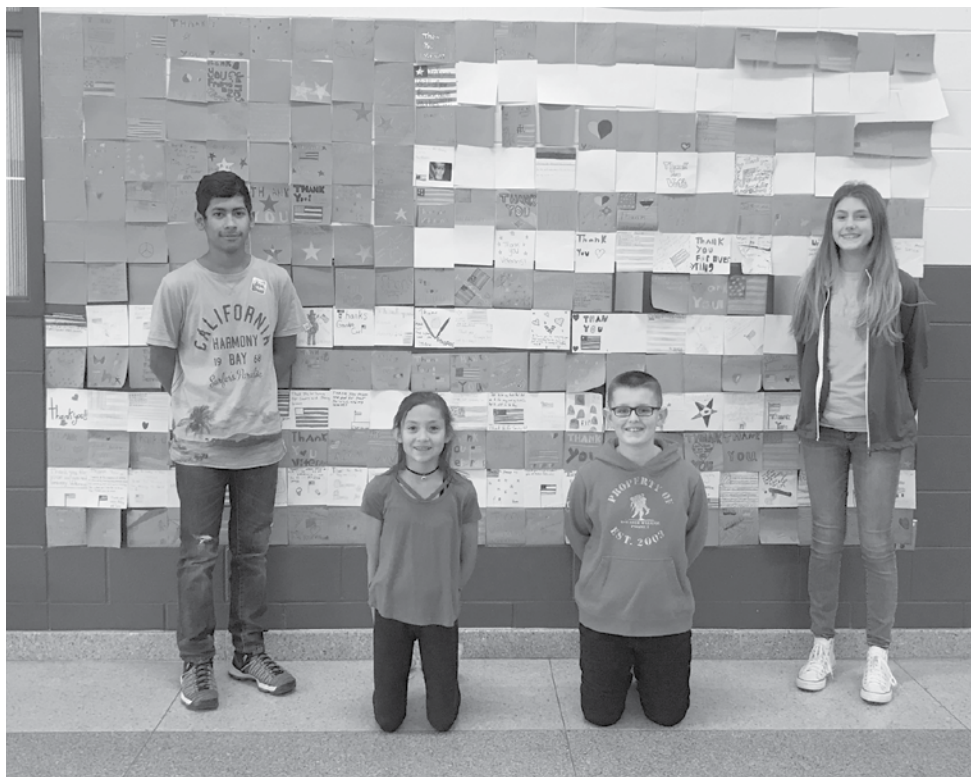
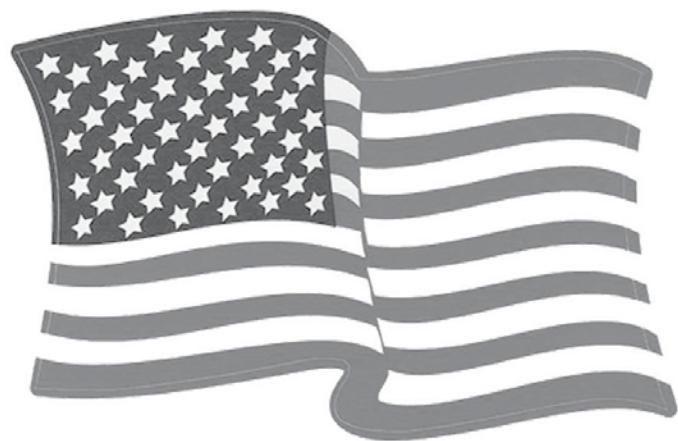
Students were challenged to make healthy choices during the month of December either through physically activity or healthy eating. If a staff member was able to "catch" them doing this they were rewarded a ticket to go into a drawing. Winners of the drawing received tickets to a Grand Rapids Drive basketball game for a family of four and a gas card. Future drawings will take place the rest of the year with the next winner receiving Muskegon Lumberjacks tickets. Keep making healthy choices.

Winners in picture are Brant Hutson and McKennah Tanner with Mr A.





Mrs. Pendergast's fourth grade students are focused on making healthy food choices. They have learned about making healthy lifestyle choices in their CATCH lessons. CATCH is an educational program sponsored by a partnership with Spectrum Health in teaching and promoting wellness.



HMS students honored the nation's veterans by constructing an American flag with thank-yous to all veterans. 5th grader Anderson Stoneburner, 6th grader Tyler Norberg, 7th grader Armando Escobedo and 8th grader Eli McAree proudly display the flag!

From the Principal's Desk ...

Winter Greetings from Patricia St. Clair Elementary.

Throughout the fall, holidays, and winter season, we have had many exciting things happening at PSC Elementary. Parent Teacher conferences were held November 7th and 8th. Parent participation was over 90%. Parents completed a survey to help guide our school improvement efforts. We'd like to thank our parent partners for their support and feedback.

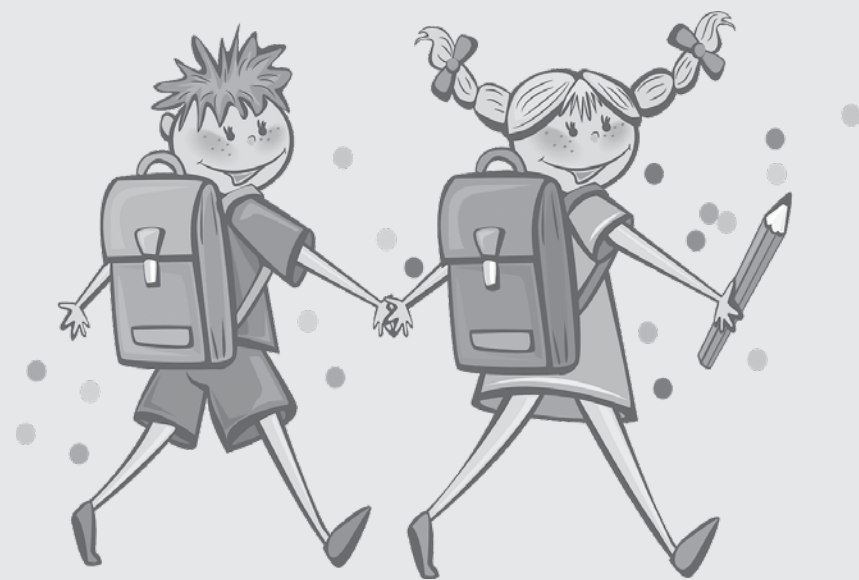
On Thursday, November 9th, Mrs. Hawes took 35 students to Ferris State University as part of the Students in Need of Eye Care program. This project is collaboration between the local districts, Fremont Lions Club, Ferris State University, and The Gerber Foundation. Even though it is a coordinated effort, to be truly successful, each district needs a champion for their school, and Vicki Hawes is our champion. Of the 35 student who attended, 21 will be received glasses here at school on November 30th. The project was also featured on 9 & 10 News!

The PTO Elementary Holiday Book Fair was held on the 13th and 14th of December. This is a great fundraiser for our PTO and a great way to get books in kids' hands. Also on the 13th, Santa and Mrs. Claus were here for pictures with the kids. Thank you to all of those involved!

Congratulations to Mrs. Baker on 35 years of Holiday Concerts! The Elementary Christmas Programs were held on Monday, December 18th and, as usual, they were huge success, in front of packed crowds

Our snow day Challenges have been very popular. These are posted to the District Facebook Page mid-morning on Snow Days and provide a creative way to get kids to read, imagine, or be active. A random winner is selected each day, and the prizes vary.

Elementary will host a STEM Family Night was held on January 25th in the elementary gym. This was a great event and was very well attended! There were lots of cool STEM (Science. Technology. Engineering. Mathematics) activities and food for the whole family. We will host a Literacy Night in March, and we look forward to seeing you there.



The Elementary School Improvement Team has been working diligently to produce an aligned report card template k-4 (5th uses Skyward). This report card will be given out at the end of the 1st and 2nd semesters and track student proficiency (Beginning, Developing, & Proficient) on grade level content standards across the academic year. Standards are written in parent friendly language using "I Can". In addition, it will assign proficiency levels to Behavior Expectations, and indicate intervention services being provided. 1st and 3rd quarter, we will provide a data snap-shot/progress report. If you have any questions or feedback regarding our new report card system, or your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact us.

As you can see, the first half of the school year was full of exciting activities and initiatives aimed at creating the best elementary school experience possible for our families. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any feedback or concerns about your child's education.



MOTTO: Achieving Excellence Together

MISSION: *Hesperia Community Schools exists to provide all students with educational opportunities to become effective and successful citizens.*

VISION:

Hesperia Community Schools will provide inspiration for learning and prepare each student for success.

BELIEFS: We Believe ...

- * In a culture of mutual responsibility, accountability and respect.
- * In modeling and celebrating excellence.
- * Everyone has the potential to be a life-long learner.
- * Staff and students should expect a safe, fair and equitable environment.
- * The community has an obligation to support the growth and development of students.
- * In individual and differentiated education.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
96 S. DIVISION
PO BOX 338
HESPERIA, MI 49421

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hesperia, MI
Permit #1
Non-Profit Org.

POSTAL PATRON

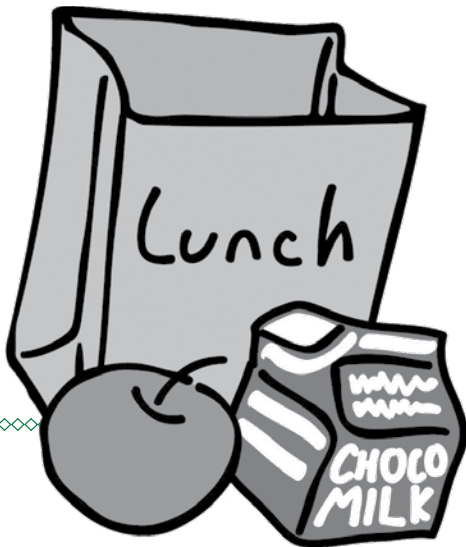
Visit us online at www.hesp.net

Check Student's Grades Anytime

Hesperia Community Schools provides students and parents the opportunity to monitor academic progress at anytime. The "Family Access" site is a secure website containing such information as upcoming and missing assignments, current grades, student schedules and more.

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 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 231-854-0509.



HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

If you are a non-graduate under the age of 20, as of September 1, 2016, and would like to earn your high school diploma, Hesperia Community Schools has the perfect program for you. We offer a self paced program that is computer based with many class offerings, staffed by a certified teacher.

If you are interested in enrolling, or would like additional information on the program please contact us at (231) 854-6185.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT TO SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY

Hesperia Community Schools once again seized an opportunity to reduce the District's interest expense by \$675,000 for taxpayers. This occurred through lowering debt payments over the next 21 years for bonds issued for the 2009 building renovations. The 2009 bonds maturing in the years 2020 through 2038 having a 4.8% interest rate were replaced with new funding bonds with the same bond term at an interest rate of 2.66%. Additionally, it is estimated that the refunding will reduce the District's dependence on the Michigan School Loan Revolving Fund in the future avoiding the estimated \$370,000 of additional interest expense. This is great news for district tax payers as they are projected to save \$1 million dollars over the life of the bonds.

Hesperia Community Schools

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES 2018

Month	Work Session Date	Regular Meeting Date
October	2nd	16th
November	6th	20th
December	4th	18th

Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month unless noted above.

Meetings will be held in the High School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. unless posted otherwise.

According to state law, if your child has a food allergy you must provide written authorization from your medical provider in order to have special accommodations from the school food service program. Please contact Mrs. Muckey should you have any questions about food allergies and accommodations requested by your doctor.

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
Transportation.....	854-9301
Lunch Room.....	854-0509
Athletics.....	854-7100
Technology Office.....	854-6068

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Treasurer.....	Jenna Flanery
Trustee.....	Mary Sturtevant
Trustee.....	Patrick Broton
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