

# Hesperia Community Schools

## BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Welcome  
Back to  
School**

***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.*



### **PANTHER PRIDE**

#### **Superintendent's Corner**

#### **Vaughn White**

Schools are unique as an institution where students each year get a chance to renew and restart their educational experience. No matter what last year consisted of, "this year" is a new opportunity. This idea is an example of a growth mindset. It is the "I can do it" attitude that establishes a greater tendency to learn and succeed. Students with a growth mindset are "learners" and will increase their likelihood of future prosperity.

A growth mindset has made up much of our attitude for our School District this last year. Looking back, the board adopted new policies, new administrative and teacher evaluations, developed a new district strategic plan with a new Mission, Vision, Beliefs, and Goals, and made difficult decisions to right-size the district budget. Moving forward, we have a new food service plan that will bring additional offerings and options to students, new buses for students to safely ride on each day, and a state of the art security and lighting system. All of which are designed to save the district money and/or increase revenue.

With all that has been accomplished, there is always more to improve. Our committed teachers and staff use their growth mindset each day to provide the best educational experience for your children. They seek your communication and input and appreciate your commitment and support. They are constantly upgrading their own skills to keep up with local and state standard expectations. They are true professionals seeking the best education for your children.

Our district strategic plan will be the catalyst for our continued improvement. Much work has been put into our new plan for improvement with goal areas in Academics, Operations, Communications/Community Engagement, Learning Environment/Culture, and Personnel/Leadership. As develop strategies for these goals this year, we will present updates at board meetings and post progress on our website. Thank you for your continued support!

### **NEW SCHOOL BUSES**

Hesperia has decided to lease its fleet of school buses to provide safe and dependable buses for our children. We anticipate savings through the consolidation of the mechanic and transportation coordinator positions. We will maintain 6 of our own fleet for use for after school sports and activities.

### **Hours of Operation**

**Elementary K-4**  
7:50 a.m. – 3:15  
p.m.

**Middle / High  
School 5-12** 8:05  
a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**First Day of  
School**  
Monday, August  
28, 2017

### **Quick Guide**

**Superintendent's  
Corner**

**New School  
Buses**

**Bronze Medal**

**Freshens Up Meal  
Service**

**Security/  
Lighting Plan**

**Lunch Fees**

**Open House**

**Busing  
Reminders**

**District Policies**

**CATCH Program**

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## School Contact Information

### Vaughn White Superintendent

96 S. Division, P.O. Box 338  
Hesperia, MI 49421  
Phone 231 854-6185

### Board of Education

Patrick Broton President  
Mary Sturtevant Vice President  
Michelle Allen Secretary  
Jenna Flanery Treasurer  
Ryan Good Trustee  
Scott Wenberg Trustee  
Al Daniels Trustee

The board of education meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month in the high school library at 7:00 p.m. Dates are subject to change.

### Principals, Directors, Coordinators

David LaPrairie  
High School Principal 854-6385  
Middle School 6-8 854-6475

Bryan Mey  
Elementary Principal K-5  
854-6615

Mona VanBlargan  
Technology Coordinator  
854-6068

Joe Conkle  
Athletic Director  
854-7100

Van Leone  
Transportation  
Director/Mechanic  
854-9301

Steve Dean  
School Nurse  
854-6715

Deb Muckey  
Head Cook  
854-0509

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## Hesperia Community Schools Receives Bronze Medal!

Congratulations to Hesperia Community Schools for earning the **2017 U.S. News and World Report Bronze Medal for Best High Schools**. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state required tests and how well they prepare students for college and careers. All public schools are eligible and nearly all were evaluated in the process of calculating the rankings for Gold, Silver and Bronze status. The goal of developing school rankings is to provide a clear and unbiased picture of how well public schools serve all students in preparing them to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills as well as readiness for college level work. Data sources used for developing the rankings include student enrollment, graduation rate, College Board/Advanced Placement, and statewide proficiency test results. **Congratulations Hesperia Community Schools!**

## Hesperia Freshens Up Meal Service

Significant changes are underway for improving food service this school year. In preparation for improvement, the kitchen provided secondary students with taste tests of new food items last year. This input has helped develop like/dislike data used to identify the foods most popular with students. We also visited other district food service programs to gain additional ideas. So what did we learn? Students for the most part, understand the need for healthier, low fat, nutritious food. They JUST WANT IT TO TASTE GOOD and have MORE CHOICES!

So here is the plan... In the elementary we will be offering Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students a choice of two main entrées on Mondays and Tuesdays. They can make their choice right from the lunch line. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be able to make a choice right from the line as well. Fridays will only have one choice for all K-4 grades, but will be a popular item such as chicken nuggets or pizza for example. Certainly, there is no guarantee of choice, even on designated days, but our goal is to try to provide additional choice as much as possible.

The largest changes will happen in the 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade lunch program. This year students will have the option of the traditional entree from the menu in one line, or a *grab and go* entrée in a second line. Grab and go items might consist of a chicken sandwich, pizza, taco, parfait, etc. But that is not all... We will also be offering a make your own salad and sub bar. Of course we will portion some items such as meat and cheese, but for the most part, students can add additional toppings of their choice. We are hopeful that students, who may have faded away from the lunch program in the past, will try and like it again. We appreciate your patience and support as we try a new system this year.

## Increased Building Security and Cost Efficient Lighting

We are scheduled to be the first public school to have a district-wide integrated lockdown and lighting system. The Boot™ is anchored by two steel pins that fit into corresponding floor holes, creating a barricade for interior doors. In addition, LED tubes have replaced our current florescent lighting system. The Boot™, through chip technology will communicate with the LED bulbs. The system signals the LED lights throughout the district to turn red upon the deployment of The Boot™ indicating a need for lockdown. This creates a significant system of safety for our students and staff. Our anticipated electrical savings are between \$25,000-\$32,000 per year. The cost of the project is \$165,000 not including an approximate \$29,000 rebate. We anticipate paying off the loan through the savings in electricity in 5-6 years.

## Back to School Open House

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 –  
7:00 p.m.

Stop in with your child to meet their teachers, tour buildings and enjoy a hotdog. If you are unable to attend the open house, please contact the appropriate building for enrollment information

## Lunch Fees 2017-18

Elementary  
\$1.95

Middle/High  
\$2.20

We have free breakfast for all students.

Our website allows you to check your child's account balance and make lunch deposits. Please click on the link entitled "Lunch Money Accounts" for access.

Students carrying a \$5.00 negative balance will be given an alternate cold lunch. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or special needs.

Free and reduced applications are available on the school website.

Contact Deb Muckey at 854-0509 or email her at [muckeyde@hesp.net](mailto:muckeyde@hesp.net) should you have any questions.

## Busing Reminders and Information

- Children in Kindergarten, first, and second grades will not be dropped off at their bus stop without an older sibling or acknowledgement that a parent or guardian is home.
- There will be some bus driver route changes, so we ask that you please be patient the first few weeks of school while these new drivers become acquainted with their new routes and your children.
- Safety is our top priority. All students should arrive at their assigned bus stop at least five minutes prior to their scheduled pickup time. Buses will not wait for late students because they need to keep their schedule for all other stops.

## Notice of Pest Management

As a part of our pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you need prior notification, please submit a letter to Vaughn White, Superintendent, Hesperia Community Schools, P.O. Box 338, Hesperia, MI, 49421.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

Hesperia Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, disability, or any other protected characteristics in its educational programs, activities, administrations or employment policies, as required in Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Executive Order 11246, as amended, Section 799A and 845 of the Public Health Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Equal Pat Act.

Inquiries concerning the application of, or grievances for, any of the regulations should be addressed to Vaughn White, Hesperia Community Schools, P.O. Box 338, Hesperia MI 49421.



## Drug-Free Schools

In accordance with federal and State law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or on school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic, beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by state statute or substance that could be considered a "look-alike" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the district will also notify law enforcement officials.



CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) will be launching into St. Clair Elementary full force for the 2017-2018 school year! With support from Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial and Michigan State University Extension we will be coordinating efforts to extend nutrition education and new healthy food experiences to our students. We aspire to create a positive and healthy learning environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice and students can thrive! Feel free to stop by the CATCH table at the Fall open house for more information and a free gift!

# HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CALENDAR FOR 2017-18

**July 2017**

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30	31					

**August 2017**

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**September 2017**

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**October 2017**

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**November 2017**

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**December 2017**

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						14

**January 2018**

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**February 2018**

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**March 2018**

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**April 2018**

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29	30					

**May 2018**

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**June 2018**

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						3

- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – August 28**
- NO SCHOOL – Sept 1**
- Aug 23 & 24 - Professional Development; Nov 15 - Deer Day ; Feb 16 - Mid-Winter Break**
- HOLIDAY BREAKS**  
Sept 4 - Labor Day ; Nov 23 - 24 - Thanksgiving Break; Dec 21 - Jan 2 Christmas Break; Mar 30 - April 6 - Spring Break; May 28 - Memorial Day
- HALF DAY WITH STUDENTS**
- FLEX DAYS IF NEEDED**
- LATE START DAYS ( 24 DAYS)**  
Teachers report at 7:45 - 9:15  
Meetings begin at 8:00

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

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