



HESPERIA PANTHERS

AUGUST 2013

AUGUST 2013

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Open House
August 29, 2013
5:00-7:00 PM

First Day of School
September 3, 2013
Full Day - All Students

MEAP Testing
October 8-25, 2013
Grades 3-9

Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 13-14, 2013

No School
November 15/18, 2013
November 28/29, 2013

EARLY COLLEGE NEWAYGO COUNTY

Hesperia Community Schools has partnered with the Newaygo County Regional Education Service Agency (NC-RESA) and Muskegon County College (MCC) to offer an Early College Program. This program extends the high school career by an additional year, but the student will earn both their high school diploma and up to 62 credits from Muskegon Community College (MCC). This program is available at no cost to the student.

Students who participate in the Early College Program will receive special support to improve their academic performance, as they work to secure their future education and career-related goals. All costs associated with the college courses are covered by the Early College Program and include registration, technology fees, textbooks and materials. Students are able to participate in extra-curricular activities and commencement during their 12th grade year.

Hesperia Community Schools will have six students participating in this year's Early College Program. If your son or daughter might be interested for the 2014-2015 school year, applications will be available in January of 2015.

SCHOOLMESSENGER

In an effort to facilitate better communication between school and home, Hesperia Community Schools has contracted with SchoolMessenger, an automated notification system. This system is designed to automatically notify parents regarding issues that could impact the safety or academic performance of your children. Hesperia Community Schools will use SchoolMessenger to broadcast emergency preparedness procedures, as well as inform you about upcoming events. You will receive notification regarding state-wide testing schedules, parent meetings and other important dates.

FAC FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Fremont Area Community Foundation has awarded over \$37,000 in educational mini-grants to be used during the 2013-2014 school year. Several teachers wrote and submitted grants in an effort to receive additional funding for projects, provide supplemental supplies and integrate additional technology into their classroom. We are very fortunate to have received these grants and the teachers are looking forward to using them in their classrooms and throughout the community. A huge thank you to the Fremont Area Community Foundation! Hesperia Community Schools appreciates your ongoing support.

DELAYED START DATES

SEPTEMBER 11,25
OCTOBER 16,23,30
NOVEMBER 6,13,20,27
DECEMBER 4,11,18
JANUARY 8,15,22,29
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

AUGUST 2013

Hesperia



Panthers



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As another school year is right around the corner, Hesperia Community Schools is preparing for the Back-to-School Open House on August 29, 2013 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Please stop by during this time to meet your child's teachers, administrators and other school staff. Food and refreshments will be available.

Over the past year, Hesperia Community Schools has received numerous awards based on our standardized test scores and we continue to close the achievement gap between socioeconomic groups. Both the middle school and high school were recognized as "Reward Schools" and Bridge Magazine listed Hesperia Community Schools as one of the Top 50 Districts in Michigan. In addition, Hesperia High School was named as a Bronze School by US News. These accolades could not have been

accomplished without the support of our entire community and all of our employees.

Although much has been accomplished, there remains a lot to achieve. Our focus during 2013-2014 will be on literacy. Last year the District Literacy Committee was formed to begin looking at the literacy needs throughout our district. This group will be meeting again in September to finalize the District Literacy Plan, with tentative implementation in January 2014.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has replaced School Report Cards and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with Accountability Scorecards, which include the following five components:

- Student Participation on State Assessments
- Student Proficiency on State Assessments
- Student Graduation OR Attendance Rates
- Educator Effectiveness Label
- School Improvement Plan

Scorecards will use a coloring system that includes (highest to lowest): Green, Lime, Yellow, Orange, and Red, which are based on reaching targets from the five components. Currently, Hesperia Community Schools has received a Yellow for all buildings and the district. We have some work to do this year in certain components and are in the process of assembling a plan to address these needs.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Hesperia Community Schools Board of Education, as they always place student achievement at the forefront of every decision. Over the past three years, we have been able to increase our teaching staff and maintain student programming, which has been possible through a focus on instruction and fiscal vision. The financial struggles faced by public schools will not diminish, but we will work diligently to maintain programming and continue to increase student achievement.

I am excited about all that will be accomplished in the upcoming school year and encourage you to visit the school, attend an extra-curricular event or volunteer. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jeffery S Haase, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President	Todd Jacobs
Vice President	Matt Joppich
Secretary	Dr. Jeffrey Thome
Treasurer	Pat Budde, Business Manager
Trustee	Mike Anderson
Trustee	Kim McClernan
Trustee	Ryan Good
Trustee	Jim Lavin

The Board of Education meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please check the website for meeting dates, times, and location.

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

CHECK STUDENT 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.

FOR PARENTS:

<http://skyward.ncresa.org/parent>

FOR STUDENTS:

<http://skyward.ncresa.org/student>

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Please plan to join us for the Fall Open House on August 29th from 5-7 PM. Parents will have an

opportunity to meet their child's teachers, administrators and other staff. Additionally, school staff will be available to answer questions and discuss the upcoming school year. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

Freshmen Orientation will begin at 4:30 PM in the Media Center. Graduation requirements will be discussed, as well as how to obtain academic assistance. New handbook language, athletic eligibility and class rank formula will be reviewed.

Fifth Grade Orientation will start at 6:30 PM in the Middle School Cafeteria. Policies and procedures will be outlined in an effort to ensure a smooth transition for your son/daughter.

AUGUST 29, 2013

5:00 - 7:00 PM

**FOOD AND
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED**

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 - \$1.60
MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$1.85
HIGH SCHOOL - \$1.85



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.

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 pick-up prior to 3:15 PM, please sign them out in the appropriate 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.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

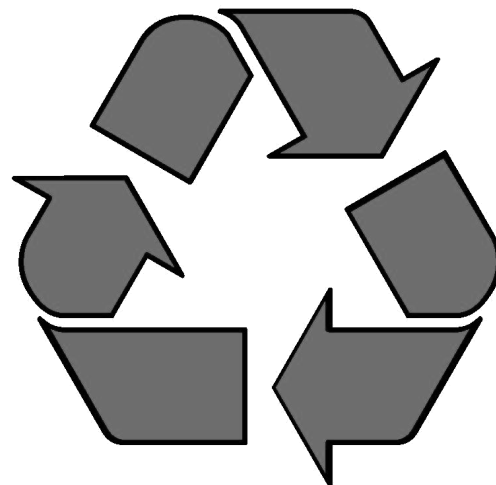
We continue to update our transportation fleet and this past July we added another new seventy-seven (77) passenger bus through the QZAB funding process. The Hesperia Community School's Board of Education continues to make it a priority to replace one bus each year, as long as it is fiscally responsible. You should see a familiar face behind the wheel, as most of the regular drivers are returning this fall.

Please be patient as we work through the issues typical during the first few days of a new school year and bus routes should be running smoothly and on schedule by the second week. Please take the time to review bus rules and safety reminders with your children, which can be found in the student handbook. Safety is our first priority and with parent assistance, and student cooperation, we can have another safe school year. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Larry Trussell at 854-9301.

MICHIGAN GREEN SCHOOL

Last year, all three buildings were recognized by the State of Michigan as being "Official Michigan Green Schools". All buildings plan on "staying green" during 2013-2014. Students will spend the year recycling materials, conserving energy, studying and learning about conservation. Additionally, students will participate in activities and information will be sent home regarding their projects.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in making Hesperia Community Schools a Michigan Green School.



PROJECT FOCUS PROGRAMMING

Please take advantage of a beneficial and fun after-school opportunity through the Elementary and Middle School Project FOCUS, which is offered free to all students during the school year. These programs offer a healthy snack, focus on homework help and tutoring, offer hands-on enrichment activities and occasional field trips. Sample activities include arts and crafts, science exploration, fitness fun, reading activities, outdoor games, sports, character education, team-work skills, robotics, engineering, community service and much more! The focus is to make school fun and enhance outside school learning, related to classroom academics. The FOCUS program assists students in their current classes and prepares them for their future education. Daily meals and transportation is provided. For more information or to register a student, contact the respective site coordinator below:

Elementary - Tami Crawford

231-854-6615 ext.8613

tcrawford@truenorthservices.org

Middle school - Dan Postema

231-854-6615 ext.8720

dpostema@truenorthservices.org

Morning programming will be available on late start Wednesdays. Students can register at the Fall Open House on August 29th or during the school year in either the Elementary or Middle School Project Focus offices.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Hesperia Community School Improvement Team has made it a priority to increase Parent and Community Involvement in our district. One key goal of this group is to foster collaboration between the school, parents and our local community. It is impossible for schools to close the achievement gap without a dynamic partnership with families. Research has demonstrated that engaging families in their child's education improves student achievement, attendance, behavior and increases graduation rates.

We will have several events during the 2013-2014 school year that will provide an opportunity for families and the local community to be involved in the educational process of our students. Thank you for the important role you play in the success of the students, school and our entire community.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE SECTION 105C INFORMATION

Hesperia Community Schools currently has unlimited openings funder the Section 105C Schools of Choice Plan. Students from any district within an Intermediate School District that is contiguous to the Newaygo County RESA are eligible to make application to the Superintendent's office. Applications will be accepted until September 6, 2013 at 3:30 PM. Forms are available online at www.hesp.net or can be obtained in the Superintendent's office. If you have questions or would like additional information please call 854-6185.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOTES

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
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2013						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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SEPTEMBER 2013						
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29	30					

OCTOBER 2013						
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27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2013						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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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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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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FEBRUARY 2014						
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MARCH 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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27	28	29	30			

MAY 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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JUNE 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	SA
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

August 27-28 Professional Development 8-3 PM

August 29 Professional Development Noon-7 PM

September 3 - First Day

October 8-25 MEAP Weeks

November 13 - P/T Conferences 5-8 PM

November 14 - P/T Conferences 1-3 PM/5-8 PM

November 14 - Student 1/2 Day

November 15 - Deer Day

November 18 - No School

November 28/29 - Thanksgiving

December 23 - January 3 - Holiday Break

January 6 - School Resumes

January 20 - 1/2 Day

January 20 - Afternoon Records Day

February 24 - Mid-Winter Break

March 4 -6 - MME Week

April 1 - P/T Conferences 5-8PM

April 2 - P/T Conferences 5-8PM

April 4-11 - Spring Break

April 18 - Good Friday

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 29 - Community Education Commencement

May 30 - High School Commencement

June 5 - Student 1/2 Day

June 6 - Student 1/2 Day and Last Day

Marking Period Dates

Sept 3 - Nov 1 - First Marking Period

Nov 4 - Jan 17 - Second Marking Period

Jan 21 - March 28 - Third Marking Period

March 31 - June 6 - Fourth Marking Period

Student Count Days - Oct 2/Feb 12



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

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Hesperia, MI
Permit #1
Non-Profit Organization

RURAL ROUTE BOX
HOLDER OR RESIDENT
STREET ADDRESS