



CORONAVIROUS INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

With the increased intensity of news reports and social media posts regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19), comes speculation about the impact this virus may eventually have on school communities. It is important for you to know the most accurate and timely information about this health concern.



1. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has published a Fact Sheet to explain what the virus is, how it is spread, who is at risk, and how to protect yourself.
2. There is also a CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Frequently Asked Questions document that specifically addresses concerns about children and the virus. It explains that so far there is no evidence to suggest that children are more susceptible to the virus than the general population.
3. Additional updates (including current case information for Michigan) can be found at the MDHHS COVID19 website (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website).

We have added these links to our school district website for your convenience.

As always, our schools work closely with public health officials and follow all of their expert recommendations to best ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

As you know learning at our school primarily occurs inside classrooms with face-to-face teaching by certified instructors. Any guidance on recovering the learning that may be lost during a potential school closing will come from the Michigan Department of Education. In the meantime, be assured that our schools are prepared to intensify cleaning practices throughout our buildings and will follow all directions provided by public health to prevent and limit the virus.

According to public health officials, the way COVID-19 is spread is very similar to the flu and common colds. For this reason, we are encouraging our students and staff to use the same precautions they would normally take to avoid these illnesses. Please encourage the following practices at home as we do in school to help prevent illness.

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

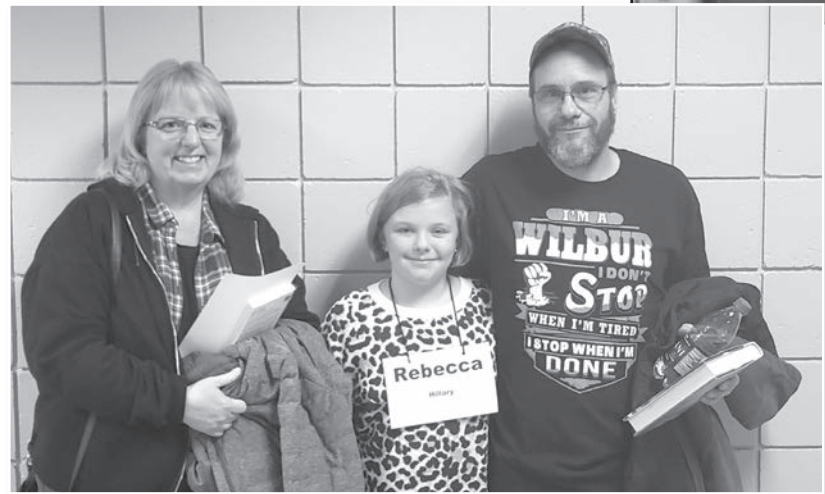
Parents are encouraged to keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after their fever is broken without the benefit of medication and contact their healthcare provider.

We have open and effective lines of communication with our public health officials and will alert students, staff and parents if we receive direction related to COVID-19. Any potential school closing due to illness will be guided by public health officials. While education is important, the health and well-being of our students and staff are far more significant.

Vaughn White
Superintendent

2020 Regional Spelling Bee

Congratulations to 7th grader Ian Fox for placing 9 out of 18 overall making it to Round 5 in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Fremont. Congratulations also to our 4th grader, Rebecca Hillary, who placed 11th and made it to Round 4. They represented our Panthers well! The competition included students in grades 3-8 from Fremont, Big Rapids, Grant, Newaygo, White Cloud, and Big Jackson.



Middle School Spring Concerts

Spring Concerts will be on Wednesday, May 6.

5th & 6th-grade bands perform at 6 PM

7th/8th & High School perform at 7 PM

Please come to support these wonderful young musicians.



Four Hesperia High School students performed solos for the MSBOA High School Solo and Ensemble Festival at Cadillac High School on February 2. Pictured from Left to Right: Sky Milner, Flute; Samuel Brassler, Trumpet; Zachary Achterhoff-Failing, Marimba; Will Blount, Xylophone. Sky, Sam and Zach will go to the State level on March 14

NEEDED:

BUS DRIVERS • NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

TRAINING PROVIDED FOR A NEW CAREER

GREAT HOURS FOR STAY AT HOME PARENTS AND RETIREES.

Contact Dan Bailey at 854-9301 for details



Family Health Care Dental Clinic



We are excited to let you know about our Family Health Care dental clinic within the Hesperia Community Schools this year, located in the High School Media Center. We offer preventive services such as dental exams, x-ray, cleanings, fluoride application and sealants as well as restorative services including fillings, pulpotomies and simple primary tooth extraction.

Dr. Janet Fronheiser, DMD is a graduate of Midwestern University in Arizona and has been practicing with Family Health Care since 2015 working in our Grant and White Cloud offices as well as our school based clinics. The dental assistant joining Dr. Fronheiser is,

Michelle Bustos, CDA a 1997 graduate of Hesperia Community Schools.

Enrollment forms for services are available in the Media Center, and with Steve Dean in the Nurse's office. They can also be mailed home by parent request. Please contact Courtney Schwartz at 231.689.7148 to answer any questions about the program, to schedule your child for an appointment or request an enrollment form.



The 2020 STEAM Challenge at Hesperia Schools:

On January 25th, Hesperia Community Schools hosted the 7th annual STEAM Challenge. The Engage Program was joined by a number of other after-school programs for this event. Baldwin, Hart, Holton, Muskegon, Walkerville, and White Cloud all participated in the competition and day of fun.

The STEAM Challenge had a "Carnival" theme this year. Students worked on projects at their individual schools for about six weeks prior to the competition. One of the judged events was a student-built Ferris Wheel. There was also a marble rollercoaster that was in the engineering category. The judged art category this year consisted of a large banner that was carnival themed. The "Team Challenge" this year put random groups of kids to the challenge of creating the best carnival treat. All events at the STEAM Challenge were judged by our afterschool staff.

Aside from the judged student projects, there was a large carnival taking place throughout the event. Kids were welcomed to play the huge assortment of carnival games and win tickets that were used later for a prize raffle. Students and guests were also given cotton candy, snowcones, popcorn, and a warm meal. All for free!



A team of students works on the Team Challenge Dessert Competition

DOUG BAIRD RECEIVES 2019 MITCA AWARD



Kim Smith and Jim Cherry accompanied Doug Baird to the 2019 Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association (MITCA) Banquet supporting his achievement for coaching. Mr. Baird was nominated by his peers needing a score of at least 60 points and at least 25 years of coaching experience to be placed in the pool of contenders for the recognition. Mr. Baird scored 100 points and was the finalist receiving this award.



CATCH[®]

COORDINATED APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH

Safe Routes to School is a federal program that helps schools analyze their communities, and identify safer practices for students to bike and walk to school. Hesperia Community School's CATCH Committee is leading the charge, focusing on education, encouragement and safety!

In 2019, we surveyed elementary & middle school students and parents to identify barriers for walking or biking to school. Through this feedback, we have identified two routes and will be implementing procedures and activities to support healthy lifestyles on an ongoing basis. Keep an eye out for a brochure coming home with your students in the coming weeks!

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY FOR A WALKING SCHOOL BUS! AN ADULT WILL ESCORT STUDENTS FROM REMOTE DROP LOCATIONS TO SCHOOL, PRACTICING SAFE WALKING / BIKING SKILLS. TO ALLOW YOUR STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE, SIMPLY DROP THEM OFF, OR HAVE THEM MEET AT EITHER THE CORNER OF ELM & ALPHA OR WEAVER PARK PAVILION. THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS WILL LEAVE AT 7:35AM!

BEGINNING MAY 1ST!
RAIN OR SHINE!

SINE Program Outcomes
Fall 2019

Number/Percentage	Fremont	Hesperia	Total
Children examined	22	52	74
Pairs of glasses ordered	19 (86%)	39 (75%)	58 (78%)
First eye exam	9 (41%)	17 (33%)	26 (35%)
Medical diagnoses	13 (59%)	21 (40%)	34 (46%)
Binocular vision, accommodative and/or oculomotor diagnosis	10 (45%)	16 (31%)	26 (35%)
Referred for additional or follow up care	14 (64%)	20 (38%)	34 (46%)

STUDENTS IN NEED OF EYECARE

A charitable program of the Fremont Lions Club, Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry and Fremont Area Community Foundation

IN 2019,

74 KIDS

from Fremont and Hesperia Schools ages 5-18 participated in the program



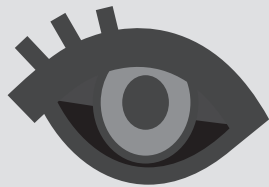
EYEGASSES 78%



of children were provided prescription eyeglasses

35% FIRST EYE EXAM

of children examined had never received an eye examination prior to the program



MEDICAL DIAGNOSES 46%



of children were diagnosed with a medical issue affecting eyes or vision

46% ADDITIONAL CARE

of children examined were recommended follow up or additional care



TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES THROUGH VISION!

Students Learn to Write A Persuasive Essay

During the month of February, 5th grade students worked on writing a persuasive essay. Students followed the writing process of brainstorming, rehearsing, planning, writing, revising, editing, and publishing. The students used a Chromebook to edit their work using a checklist. Once their work was published, they shared it with the teacher for final evaluation.



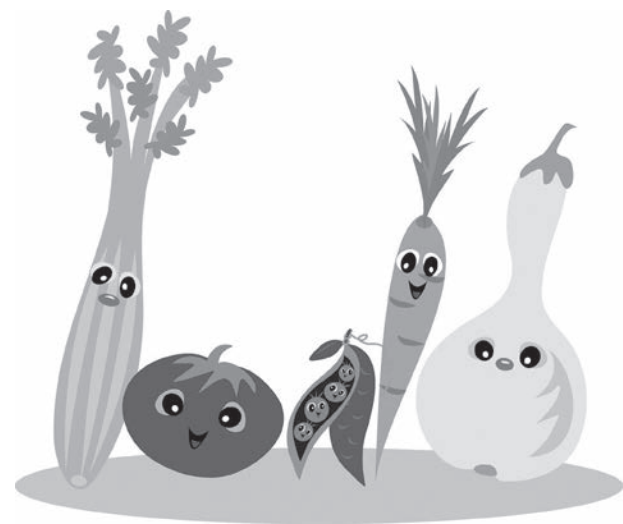
Students Receive Enjoyment for High Achievement and Positive Behavior

During the 2nd marking period, 5th grade students had the opportunity to earn time away from school to go bowling with their peers. Students were given a list of academic and behavior expectations.



Students who met the expectations were bussed to Fremont Lanes for 2 hours of bowling fun. Students found entertainment in bowling with their friends. Some students even took time from bowling to dance a little. We are currently planning the 3rd marking

period reward for achieving academic and behavior expectations. We are hoping to celebrate off campus again.

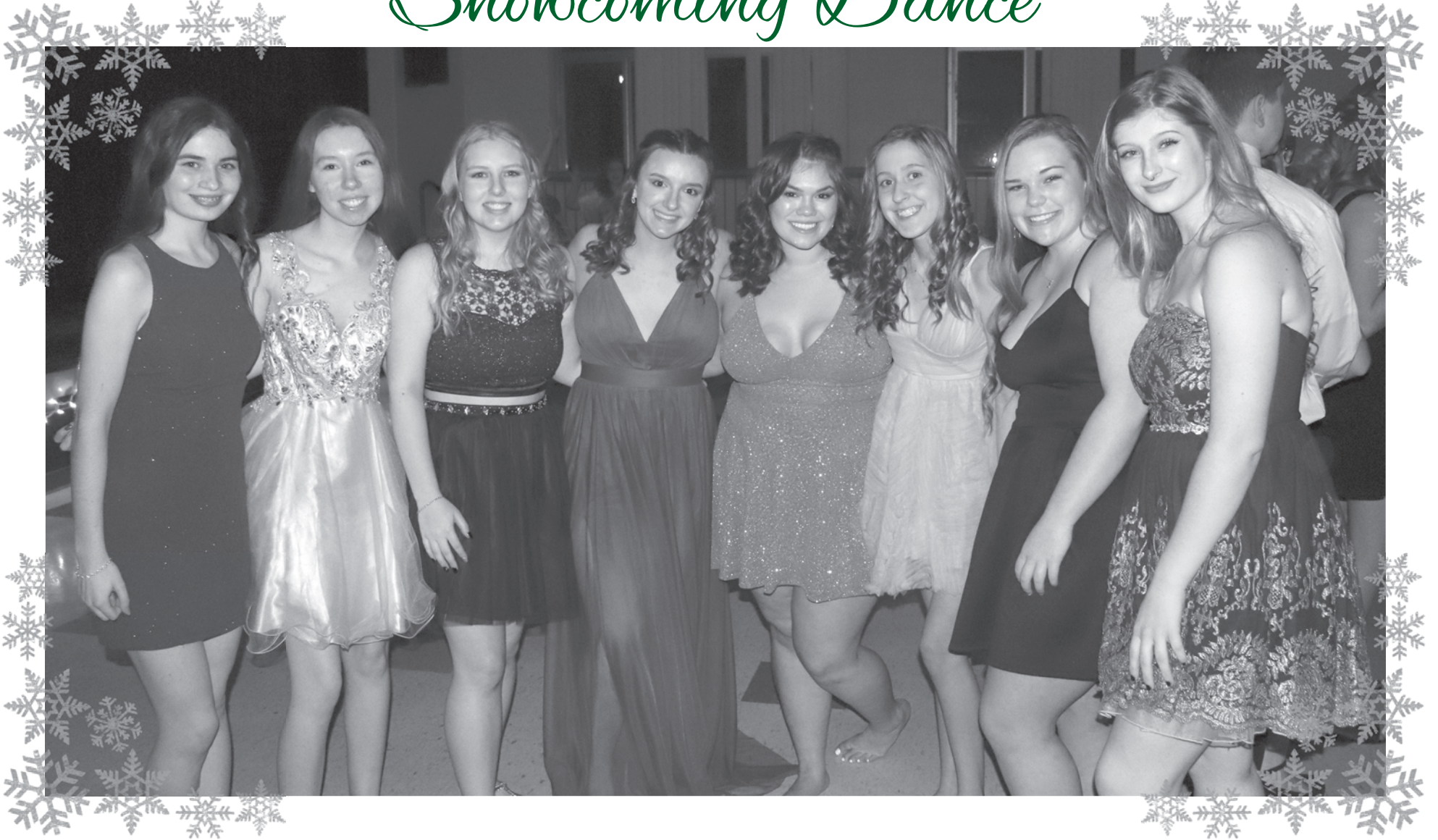


PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES



Mrs. Pendergast's class promoted healthy food choices by creating advertisements to persuade our student body to eat more "Go" foods. They used a variety of advertising techniques to convince their reader. Look for their ad's around the school today!

Snowcoming Dance



Student Council Sponsored a Snowcoming dance on February 8th. High school students came dressed in their best and enjoyed music, snacks and each other. Proceeds from the dance will be donated to the Student Council's Pennies for Patients drive which helps raise money and awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

LAB ACTIVITIES BEING A SUCCESS!

In Mr. Paine's Recreational Sports class, students recently had two lab activities that were pretty cool. They were able to build PVC "Tip-Ups" that they can use for ice fishing and they dyed traps for trapping. Students enjoyed hands on activities. The trap dyeing lab taught students how to use tannins in walnuts to dye for traps. Students let walnut shells ferment in five gallon buckets for three months then cooked the traps with the dye by placing it on a turkey cooker and soaking the traps in it.



Lynnsey Tinkham and Eleanor Bard



HCS Theater Department Presents Singin' In the Rain

Recognized as "the greatest movie musical of all time", Singin' In the Rain will be brought to life by our very own Hesperia Community Schools' theater students. On March 13th and 14th, the iconic songs from this musical will be heard at the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts as we retell the story of Hollywood moving from the silent movies into the era of the "talkies." If you have been in our local supermarket when they are watering the produce, then you are familiar with the most famous song from this musical and the title song, Singin' In the Rain. Make your plans to join us in a very comfortable auditorium at the Dogwood in Fremont. Tickets will only be available at the door. All tickets are \$5.00. Both Friday and Saturday evening shows will begin at 7:00 PM.

Eight Outstanding Students will Represent HHS at Student Showcase

Every year since 1981, talented area high school students are recognized over two nights for their outstanding achievements in Academics, Athletics, Performing Arts (solo and group), Literary Arts, Visual Arts, and Digital Media Arts. This year there are 245 students who will travel to the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon to perform and be recognized in the six categories over two nights, March 18 & 19, at 7:00 PM. This year Hesperia High School has 8 students who were selected to participate in this honor. They are: Chris Stapel for Academics and Athletics; McKenna LaCount for Performing Arts and Literary Arts; Aria Thomas for Visual Arts; Kelsee Blount, Karlee Blount, Aubrie Robertson, Lizzie Shedd for Performing Arts; and Lynnsey Tinkham for Athletics. We are very proud of these students and their achievements. The public is encouraged to attend both evenings. Hesperia students will perform and be recognized on Thursday, March 19th. Tickets in advance are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. All tickets at the door are \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased at the Frauenthal Box Office and from etix via phone, 1-800-514-3849, or online at etix.com



HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR IS BACK!!

After many years without a high school choir in our district, we finally have one!! We are so excited about the opportunity to offer this to our 9-12 students!! Mrs. Nancy Blount, our elementary music teacher is teaching this class. Mrs. Blount has many years of experience directing all ages of choirs but has spent over 15 years directing high school-aged students. There are currently 14 students enrolled in this class. On December 10th, The choir gave their first performance at the Christmas Band/Choir Concert. Students had their second performance on February 11th, and are looking forward to their spring concert. The students are helping to plan the repertoire for that concert with a trip from the 1920s to the 2020s through music. Be watching for the date to be announced soon for that concert!

PICTURED BELOW:

Floor: Clara Kunz

Row 1: Caylee Lattin, Karlee Blount, Kelsee Blount, Aubrie Robertson, Erica Conley

Row 2: Mrs. Blount, True Osantowski, Olivia Durham, Abi Smith, Catlynn Tomara, McKenna LaCount

Row 3: Zach Achterhoff-Failing, Philipp Tillmanns, Will Blount (not pictured: Isaiah Trevino)

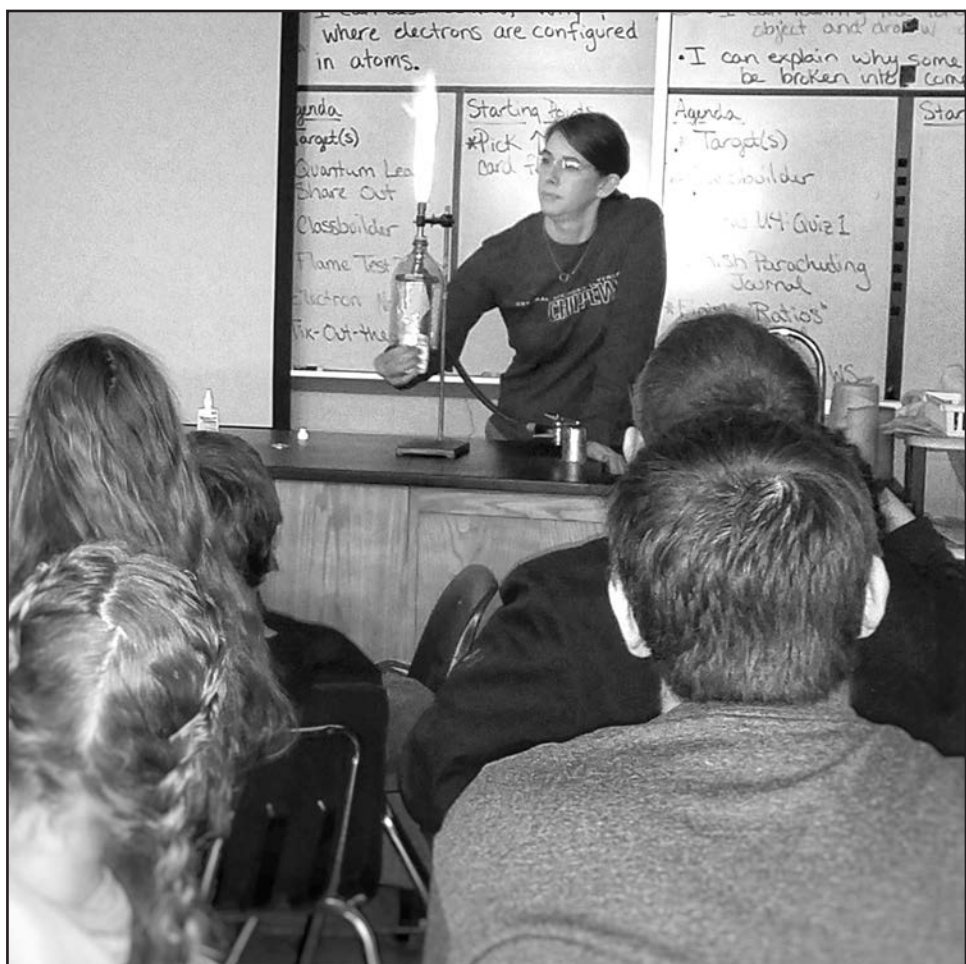


Mrs. Prado took a group of five high school students to Central Michigan University's Journalism Rocks workshop earlier this year. Students Natalie Merrill, Adri Slater, Rosie Ramos, Jade Everding, and Gabe Prado attended sessions in writing, print and broadcast journalism, photography, photo editing, page making, developing podcasts, and interviewing skills. Each student received a "goodie bag" full of CMU treats, and were given a tour of campus as well as important information regarding future careers in the journalism field. Natalie's mom Jamie was kind enough to go along and enjoy the day as well.



Materials Discovery MS College for Kids Class

What do manufacturing, chemistry and engineering have in common? These three components are the key pillars to the Materials Discovery class, a course being offered during NCRESA's College for Kids program. The Fremont Area Community Foundation and The Gerber Foundation sponsor the summer program that will be offered June 15-19. This hands-on, exploratory class will be facilitated by Hesperia High School science teacher, Jennifer Sherburn. Mrs. Sherburn said, "In Materials Discovery, we will explore and investigate solids. Later the students will focus on metals, plastics, glass, and ceramics. Registration will open mid-April and is geared toward students entering the 6th through 8th grade that have an interest in science and learning new ideas.



2018/19 Panther Yearbook Earns National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award

The 2019 Panther Yearbook Staff has been awarded the National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award, created by Josten's to recognize yearbook staffs. Criteria used when rating staffs to determine award recipients includes:

- Creation of a meaningful book for all students - A book that means something to all students and includes a vast majority of the student body. Number of students pictured three or more times in the book is used to determine whether or not this criteria has been met.
- A book in every student's hands - Schools put so much time, energy, and dedication into their yearbook, and staffs want to help ensure that as many students as possible can enjoy their final product for years to come. Percentage of books sold as compared to overall student population is used to decide this criteria.
- Effective project management - Meeting the established yearbook deadlines throughout the year is a very important part of the yearbook creation process, and meeting deadlines ensures on time delivery of the book. Schools must meet all preset deadlines to be considered for receipt of this award.

The Panther yearbook staff was first recognized as a National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award recipient for their efforts during the 2015/2016 school year. Last year's staff was one of only 35 schools in the state of Michigan to be recognized for this achievement in 2019.



Hesperia Chess Team

For the first time in over 15 years, Hesperia High School has a Chess Team. Since Winter Break, a dozen HS students have been practicing and competing in the Lakes 8 Chess League. After a couple close losses, the Panther Chess team logged their first win in their match over Newaygo.

The following students make up the 2020 Hesperia Chess team:

Gabe Brassler, Sam Brassler, Erik Greiner, Kyle Eerdmans, Sky Milner, Gary Simington-Dorian, Kyle Poole, Kayden Brown, Austin Hardesty, Zac Achterhoff-Failing, Abi Smith, Mitchell McGahan and Michael Davis.



Congratulations to our Hesperia Wrestlers for Winning District Trophy

The Panther boys rolled over Holton with a score of 63-12 in the opening round of team district competition held on their home mat to advance to the district finals. In the finals match they took on the Ravenna Bulldogs, beating them 48-27 to emerge as district champions.



Square One - art fundraiser was a success THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED.

Art shows coming up include: Showcase (4/20), CSAA conference show(4/20), True North area show (4/27-5/3), Michigan Art Education State show (5/4-5/12)

High School Chicago Trip: True North and the Arts committee of Newaygo are sponsoring a trip to Chicago on March 31. Hesperia students will be taking 10 students to see the art throughout a small portion of the city and visit the art museum.

Gerber Kiln Grant: The kiln is in and running. We would like to thank Gerber once again for this purchase. The students are loving the process and the experience. We are all loving the smiles on their faces.

Follow us on Facebook at Hesperia art program or @Hesperiaarts 



Students Visit Legend's Ranch in Bitely

A small focus group of students in Mr. Paine's Recreational Sports class recently visited Legends Ranch in Bitely. Their tasks were to create Outdoor Education lessons for local students when they visit The Wildlife Center. In the spring, students will be returning to Legends to help create plaques for many of the taxidermy species. They will also learn about habitat holding capacities and the differences in the Whitetail deer antler development which includes Typical vs Non-Typical antlers. Students will participate in additional activities including how to score antlers of whitetails, go on a shed hunt looking for antlers, create wildlife jewelry and learn how to cook over a campfire.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD REGIONALS

Hesperia High School and Middle School Science Olympiad Teams competed at the Region 3 Regional Competition on Saturday, February 29th. The hands-on science competition was held at Mid-Michigan Community College in Mount Pleasant. Teams participated in 23 science and engineering-related events. The middle school team brought home hardware in almost half of the events and earned an impressive 3rd place overall team score. The Middle School team members include Anderson Boes (1st place), Garrett VanAvery (1st place) Andrew Sherburn, Ethan O'Neil, Hayden Wright (1st and 2nd place), Vicente Cruz (2nd place), Abby Hasty, Nataleigh McGahan, Chris Verhoy (1st place), Sky Milner (two- 2nd place), Nikki Frens (two- 2nd place) and Brendon Wright (1st place). The coaches of the middle school team are Dan Postema and Ben Westgate. Postema reported, "We are extremely proud of the many months of preparation and hard work put forth by our middle school team. This year was the MS team's best finish at the regional competition to date."

High School team members include new member Zach Acterhoff-Failing and



junior members Josef Oesch, Hanna Conley, Maddie O'Neil, Miranda Anderson, Isabelle Rumsey, and McKenna LaCount. The team is led by senior-members Duke Kruppe, Rosie Ramos, and Chris Staple. High School Coach, Jennifer Sherburn, said, "Although our roster is a little short of a full team, I really appreciate the hard work and dedication that these students bring to the competition." Sherburn reported, "The building events like Ping Pong Parachute, Sounds of Music, and Gravity Vehicle are always fun to see students progress and troubleshoot but I also love seeing the success of students that put in countless hours studying

and preparing to become experts in events like, Ornithology (study of birds), Fossils, and Codebusters (solving puzzles written in code)."

Congratulations to Emily Bayle - 1000 Career Points!





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

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POSTAL PATRON

Visit us online at www.hesp.net

Hesperia Community Schools Kindergarten Registration Open House



Patricia St. Clair Elementary
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm



Start Kindergarten with the PROMISE of a FREE 2-year college scholarship and a \$50 college savings account!!

It is time to round-up our new kindergarten students! All potential kindergarten children (5th birthday before September 1, 2020) are invited to participate in our spring registration..

At the Open House:

- Identify incoming kindergarten children
- Fill out registration paperwork
- Make transportation arrangements
- Assure that parents obtain adequate immunizations and legal birth certificate
- Get to know kindergarten teachers and other key staff members

Don't forget:

- Your child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of residence (example: utility bill, mortgage documents, rental agreement)

Come join in the fun with a scavenger hunt, prizes, and a light dinner provided for the entire family!

231-854-6615

Spring
is
coming!



IMPORTANT DATES:

SAT / MSTEP: April 15 - May 24

Swing Out / Senior Last Day: May 14 a.m.

Graduation: Thursday, May 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

If you are a non-graduate under the age of 20, 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.

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.

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 Terri Blake 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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