



HESPERIA PANTHERS

WINTER 2012

JANUARY, 2012

IMPORTANT DATES

Semester Exams
January 19 & 20

First Semester Ends
January 20

Mid-Winter Break
February 13

Parent-Teacher
Conferences
March 28 & 29

Spring Break
March 30 - April 6

DELAYED START DATES

January 11, 2012
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012
April 11, 2012
May 9, 2012

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

854-6185 Phone
854-1586 Fax

Baker College Partnership

Beginning this winter Hesperia Community Schools will begin a partnership with Baker College, as prospective teachers will complete required fieldwork experiences in our buildings. Hesperia Community Schools is the only district in the West Michigan area to enter into such a partnership with the Baker College Education Department. The intent of this experience is to provide prospective educators with the opportunity to have direct contact with students, teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a variety of learning environments. Baker students will be placed throughout the K-12 educational setting in order to provide multiple experiences.

MEEMIC Grant

Congratulations to Mrs. Vonda Hall on being chosen for this year's MEEMIC Book Grant. The MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education awarded Mrs. Hall \$478.80 to use towards the purchase of books for Hesperia Community Schools. The grant was written to not only make more books available to students, but also to add variety to boy gender books and increase interest in reading. The books will be a great addition to the elementary library and we would like to thank Mrs. Hall for pursuing this grant.



WEBSTER HOUSE Youth SERVICES

The Host Home Program at Webster House Youth Services offers short term, temporary shelter to youth in crisis within homes in their own community. Webster House is in need of families who are willing to open their homes to teens who are in desperate need of help. The length of stay would not exceed two weeks and a daily stipend is provided for families who participate in the program.

When you decide to host a teen, Webster House Youth Services will support you throughout the entire process. Training will be provided to help you understand teens in crisis and tools will be given so that participants will learn how to be an effective host family. Licensing is required, but is free of charge. Host Homes give teens a safe alternative in communities where shelters are not available.

Many teens are currently living on the streets or couch surfing, as an alternative to staying at a shelter outside their own community. Living on the streets is unsafe and sometimes forces youth to engage in survival activities they would not pursue if living in a safe home environment. Please take a moment to consider being a Host Family for a teen who truly needs your help. You can learn more about the opportunity by calling Katie Cederquist at Webster House Youth Services. Katie's office is located in Newaygo High School at and can be reached at 231.652.1646 Ext. 8542. Interested families could also contact offices in Muskegon at 231.759.7909 Ext. 247.

Hesperia



Panthers



Superintendent's Message

If you haven't already, you will be hearing news reports about revised "cut scores" recently adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Rather than relying on the news media, I encourage you to look to Hesperia Community Schools and the Michigan Department of Education for the most accurate and current information.

Each year all public school students in Grades 3-9 are required to take the MEAP and all high school juniors must take the MME. The "cut scores" for the MEAP and MME separate students taking the exams into four categories: Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient and Not Proficient. Previously, the "cut scores" for these exams in Michigan were set at a very basic level. Under the new scoring system, students will have to correctly answer a much higher percentage of questions to be considered "Proficient". These new "cut scores" not only represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement, they are also intended to more accurately reflect a student's progress towards college and career readiness.

Michigan is one of only three states in the nation (along with New York and Tennessee) to make the change to this top tier level of scoring. When the MEAP and MME proficiency results are released next spring a significant decline in scores for all districts throughout Michigan is expected. While this drop in the number of students reported as "Proficient" is expected, I am confident that this will be temporary as Hesperia Community Schools continues our efforts for ongoing school improvement and student support.

The MEAP and MME exams are just two of several measures used by Hesperia Community Schools throughout the year to ensure that students are making academic progress. Instructional staff is currently working on aligning our curriculum to the Common Core State Standards and this will be posted to the district website next summer. Additionally, delayed start days provide an opportunity to offer professional development so staff is equipped to meet the changing educational needs of our students. Hesperia Community Schools will continue to maintain high standards and do whatever is necessary to prepare our students for college and careers.

I will continue to provide information through newsletters, the website and at parent-teacher conferences. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 231.854.6185 or haasej@hesp.net.

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	Ryan Good
Trustee	Jim Lavin
Trustee	Kim McClernan

The Board of Education meets one time per month. The meeting is the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the HS/MS Media Center.

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.....	854-6065

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>

School Safety

Please note that the elementary school day starts at 8:00 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 7:55 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 3:10 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 3:10 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.



2011-2012 HOT LUNCH PRICES

- ELEMENTARY - \$1.40**
- MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$1.65**
- HIGH SCHOOL - \$1.65**

High School Principal Notes

Wow! Where has the school year gone? It is hard to believe that, as I sit down to write this message, snowflakes are in the air and the chilly winds of winter are upon us. It seems that only a short time ago we were returning to school with the hope and promise of a safe, rewarding and productive experience for all. As we have progressed through the first half of the school year, our staff and students have accomplished much and have much of which to be proud.

In the area of academics we continue to make great strides. Our students are choosing to challenge themselves like never before with record numbers of them taking challenging courses such as chemistry, physics, pre-calculus and Advanced Placement English. Weekly writing assignments have been infused into all classes in an attempt to help our students reach a deeper understanding of the content and improve our ACT/MME test scores in the spring. The science department has implemented weekly exercises to improve students' problem solving and data analysis skills. Our teaching staff has also been hard at work aligning and mapping curriculum in order to better serve our students. Our collective efforts are paying off. Just as the school year began, Hesperia High School received the great news that in the Michigan Department of Education's top-to-bottom rankings of all the schools in Michigan, we were ranked in the 71st percentile. That was the highest ranking of any high school in the county or surrounding area.

It has also been a very successful fall athletically. Our football program had its most successful season in five years and seems poised to build on that success next season. The boys' cross country team also had an excellent year, winning the Conference title and running to an impressive sixth-place finish at the State Meet. They also had the fine distinction of having the highest team grade-point average of any Division 4 team in the State. The highlight of the fall athletic season, however, belonged to our girls' cross country team as they ran to a State Championship for the second straight year. The girls ran through the season undefeated and dominated the State Meet where their 40-point margin of victory was the largest of the day in all classes. Our winter athletic seasons are off to a promising start with the highest participation numbers we have had in years.

We have also had many other exciting, informative and enriching activities take place at Hesperia High School this year. A number of our classes have hosted guest speakers who have provided information for our students on career opportunities in the arts, sciences and social sciences. A group of science students traveled to Grand Rapids to attend a symposium on careers in medicine and health care. Parent-teacher conferences saw their largest turnout in many years. To celebrate the coming of the Holiday season, our band and performing arts class recently hosted its annual Christmas concert and bazaar. Also in the Holiday spirit, our staff and students recently participated in a canned food drive, and the staff purchased and delivered holiday food baskets.



We are very proud of the efforts and accomplishments of our entire Hesperia High School community and believe there are many great things to come. On behalf of our students, staff and administration I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our efforts and wish you a joyful Holiday season.

Dennis Peacock
Principal
Hesperia High School

School Board Elections

Due to legislation changes, beginning January 1st schools are now required to hold elections during the November General Election of even-numbered years.

The filing date for nominating petitions for School Board Candidates at Hesperia Community Schools will be announced at a later date.

Middle School News

It has been a very busy start to the school year. We hit the ground running in September. Our students have had several field trips already this year. Our fifth grade students went to Scottville for the Old Engine field trip. We completed MEAP testing in October. Following the testing, all the middle school students made the trip to Camp Pinewood for the fun, hands-on learning that the camp offers. All the students, teachers and chaperones reported having a great time. The weather cooperated very nicely this year. The trip this year was funded in part by The Fremont Area Community Foundation; Robert Gustine Fund. Thank you to FACF for your continued support of our students and their education.

We have implemented a new technological piece for writing. Write Source is a technology based tool for students to use for writing. The program is quite unique in its features and the students seem to really like it. The more teachers and students are acquainted with this new piece of technology, the more you will be hearing about it.

The teachers and students have been hard at work this first marking period. The Engineering class built steam engines. The 7th Grade Writing Class wrote metaphorical poems, and the 6th Grade Spanish class did a project labeling the parts of the body in Spanish. All of these classroom activities were presented to the board of education at the regular November board meeting. All students in their Seminar classes wrote "Thank you" letters to the men and women in our Armed Forces serving over seas. They will be sent overseas to arrive just in time for Thanksgiving.

The Science Courtyard is another classroom for our students. They have the opportunity to work in a "real", hands-on, learning environment. The science teachers utilize this educational forum for our students to experience nature, to see and learn how things grow. With the teachers, they have planted and cultivated everything growing in the courtyard. In the Spring, we will add the walk way material and benches made from recycled material. The Science Courtyard has been made possible through grants that our teachers have written.

This fall we made some changes in the way that Seminar period is utilized. It seems to have made quite a difference in the number of student success stories. Our students can get help from teachers, make up tests, retake tests and do correctives, among other things two days a week during Seminar time. The remaining days of the week are used for reading and intramurals. Students still receive a Seminar grade for the books that they read.

The Social Studies classes decorated the main hallway for Veteran's Day. They reprinted the story of the Poppy Field in France and covered the walls with Poppy flowers. It turned out beautiful. Please feel free to stop by and check it out some time.

Parent Involvement

Hesperia Community School Improvement Team has made it a priority to increase Parent and Community Involvement in our district. One key goal 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 2011-2012 school year that will provide an opportunity for families and the local community to become involved in the educational process of our students. Thank you for the important role you play in the success of the students, school and community.



Patricia St. Clair Elementary News

The first half of the year has been a very successful one at Patricia St. Clair Elementary. Our students and staff have been hard at work with numerous lessons, projects, and field trips along with tons of learning and fun.

Some highlights from our first semester have been the Dome Theater visit, the 4th grade visiting the Capital in Lansing, our Halloween Parade, the Fire Safety Trailer and so many more. Every day is full of adventures from learning about measurement to George Washington to the process of photosynthesis. Our students are active learners and are engaged while taking on new challenges every day.

Our Accelerated Reader Program is again very successful this year. Students, in grades 1st -4th read books and then take comprehension tests, on the computer, over the book. They gain points, earn prizes and race around the track, as this year our theme is "Race into Reading". We already have had a few students make it all the way to the highest level. We have several who are close behind. Keep Reading!!!



We have two new online computer programs this year.

Our students have additional support, remediation and challenges in both math and writing this year. Our new IXL math program is very successful. Our students can log on, earn points and have fun while practicing their math facts at school and home. We also have a new online writing program, Write Source. This program is designed for students to set up an avatar and progress through the writing process while learning about grammar and writing structures. Both of these programs are used with students at school in the classrooms and computer labs as well as being accessible from home.



We had several students enter the Newaygo County Lion Heart Production coloring contest as a promotion for their recent production of The Wizard of Oz. They gave away 2 tickets to each winner, to see the show. Patricia St. Clair had three winners this year, from 3rd Grade Aria Thomas, 2nd Grade Jack Heminger and 1st Grade Sydney Hasted. Congratulations to all our artists!

Our Kindergarten Classes hosted a Kindergarten Thanksgiving Food Drive during the month of November in conjunction with Christ the King Church in Hesperia. Students from the 4 kindergarten classes brought in food items throughout the month. The day before Thanksgiving they had a walking field trip to Christ the King Church to deliver the items and help stock the food pantry shelves. Not only did the food drive help support families in the community,

it also helped students with math concepts as they counted, weighed, and graphed all that they had collected! What a caring and giving group of Kindergarteners we have.

We are looking forward to the second half of the school year and know it will be as rewarding as the first half. We would like to thank the parents and community for all of their support and for valuing the education of all of our students. Have an enjoyable winter,

Jennifer Kleiner
Elementary Principal

At Patricia St. Clair Elementary... We are in this together, learning and growing.

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 Michelle Allen 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 Michelle at 854-1044. All instructors are required to register through PCMI Services and pass a background check.

Driver's Education Classes

Segment 1 Classes: February 13 - March 1, 2012

Segment 2 Classes: February 13-15, 2012

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

Century Driving School
575½ East 8th St.
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-2435 Phone
616-393-8550 Fax
www.centurydriving.com

**STUDENT
DRIVER**

Wet-on-Wet Painting

Learn how to paint the “wet-on-wet” method popularized by Bob Ross and other television artists. Your instructor, Pauline Stitt, makes it easy and fun to create a complete picture in one session. Bring your own brushes and all other supplies (canvas, oil paints, easels, etc.) will be provided. Please wear old clothing and experience/artistic talent are not required. Each session is \$35.00 and payment is required one week prior to scheduled class. All classes will be held at Hesperia Community Education from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Chickadees in a Basket (11 x 14) - February 16, 2012



Winter Birches (14 x 18) - March 22, 2012



Violet Lite (16 x 20) - April 19, 2012



Swan on Campbell Lake (12 x 16) - May 17, 2012



Adult Education Classes

Second semester classes begin January 23, 2012 and are held Monday-Friday from 8:10 AM - 3:10 PM. Hesperia Community Education is an official GED Testing Center.

FREE High School Completion Classes for 16-19 yrs

FREE Adult ABE, GED, & High School Completion Classes for Eligible students

FREE Classes to Improve Reading & Math Skills

FREE GED Testing for Eligible Students!

Walk-In Registration Only. For information call 231-854-1044.

Leisure and Enrichment

Includes Tumbling, Basketball Clinics, Wet-On-Wet Painting, Fitness classes, Open Gym and more!

Call for a list of activities happening this Winter! Call early to register to ensure your spot in class!

Credit Recovery

Hesperia Community Education provides high school students an opportunity to make-up courses in which they received a failing grade. Teachers work with students to complete courses and meet graduation requirements, through a technology-based program.

For more information or to register, contact Hesperia Community Education at 231.854.1044

The logo features the letters 'GED' in a large, bold, serif font. A graduation cap is positioned above the letter 'D', with its tassel hanging down.

GED Program

The GED Program is designed for those who would like to earn the General Education Development (GED) diploma. Students must earn a passing score on the official GED Practice Test prior to taking the official GED Test. Program instruction will focus on topics included in the GED battery of five tests: Language Arts/Writing, Language Arts/Reading, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics. An important feature of the GED Test is an essay which documents the ability to write and communicate effectively.

FREE classes are offered to those who qualify. For more information please contact 231-854-1044.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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JUNE 2012						
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September 1: Open House (5-7 PM)
September 6: First Full Day
November 9-11: Parent Teacher Conferences
November 14-15: No School
November 24-25: Thanksgiving Break
December 19-January 2: Holiday Break
January 3: School Resumes

January 20: End of Semester
February 13: Mid-Winter Break
March 28-29: Parent Teacher Conferences
March 30-April 6: Spring Break
April 9: School Resumes
May 28: Memorial Day
June 8: Last Student 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

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

RURAL ROUTE BOX
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