



Hillsdale Community Schools DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Winter 2022



Bailey Early Childhood Center News

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KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Mark Your Calendars!

Kindergarten Round Up at Gier Elementary School will be held **March 15th and 16th by appointment**. Call 517-427-7347 to register your child for the 2022 school year. Preschool Round Up at Bailey Early Childhood Center, will be held **April 21st by appointment**.



Winter Homecoming King and Queen

Congratulations to our Winter 2022 Homecoming King and Queen Sam Willes and Macy Mueller!

Hillsdale High School
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.439.4320

Horizon Alternative School
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.439.4320

Davis Middle School
30 N. West Street
517.439.4326

Gier Elementary School
175 Spring Street
517.437.7347

Bailey Early Childhood Center
59 S. Manning Street
517.437.7369

District Office (Inside HHS)
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.437.4401

AMY GOLDSMITH
Principal

AMY GOLDSMITH
Principal

BARBARA WHEELER
Principal

LAURIE VANORMAN
Principal

SHELLEY ELLIS
GSRP Program Manager

SHAWN VONDRA
Superintendent

DAVID PRATT
Athletic Director
Dean of Students

JOSH PERRIN
Director of Innovative Learning

What's Happening in The Hive!



Candy From Polar Bears

On December 17th the Polar Bear Club from the high school ran to Gier at the end of the day and handed out candy canes to the elementary students as they left for break.



Work Study at Hillsdale Airport

Cam Lockwood is finishing his first semester of Work Study at Hillsdale Airport. He has learned a lot about the mechanics of aircraft this year!



Editing Essays

Fourth graders make great editing partners! Fourth grade students working hard on their persuasive essays and learning the power of words.



Read With Me

Mr. Curby took high school students to Gier to do a "Read with Me" with the younger hornets!



Making Edible Houses

Students in Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Smith's kindergarten classes made gingerbread houses!



Holiday Craft Bazaar a success

The 51st Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar was held November 27th at Hillsdale High School. All proceeds went to the HHS Robotics Team.



Dress Up Week

First graders in Mrs. Sweebe's classroom enjoyed dress-up week before winter break!



EdTech Rocks

Sixth grade EdTech students designed and 3-D printed planters to take home.



Hornets Have Solid Showing at BPA Regional Competition

The Hillsdale High School Business Professionals of America Club participated in the annual Region 2 Regional Leadership Conference on January 4th. The competition allowed students to demonstrate their talents in various fields of business and industry. Michigan BPA offered approximately 400 contests in nine regions. Thirty-four students from HHS participated in the event, netting 11 individual Regional Champions, four team Regional Champions, 32 top three placings, and 32 students finishing in the top five. Thirty-two members qualified for the state competition in 26 different events. Fourteen HHS students qualified in two or more events.



Fifth Grade Engineers

Mrs. Crall's fifth graders tried to build towers with just index cards and six inches of tape. They came up with different ideas. In the end, Monica Flannery and Maryn Stebbins won, with a tower height of 20 inches!



Decorating Yummy Treats

Students from Ms. Nichole's preschool class at Bailey decorated (and ate) yummy gingerbread cookies.



Perrin Joins HCS as Director of Innovative Learning

Hillsdale Community Schools welcomes Joshua Perrin as the Director of Innovative Learning. Mr. Perrin accepted the role of Director of Innovative Learning for Hillsdale Community Schools and will work in facilitating the development of the district's K-12 virtual learning programs as well as assume the administrative responsibilities for the Bailey Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Perrin is a Hillsdale native and attended HCS from K-12 graduating in 2004. He then attended Eastern Michigan University where he graduated with a degree in Biology and Chemistry. While at EMU he met his wife Megan, who works as the Assistant Business Manager for HCS. The couple currently live in Jonesville and have two children, Robert (4 years) and Genevieve (15 months). Mr. Perrin comes to HCS after working for nearly 10 years as a high school science teacher, summer school teacher, and coach. He says "I am ready to take on new challenges and responsibilities and am very excited to join Hillsdale Community Schools." Outside of school, Mr. Perrin enjoys spending time outdoors, and serving as a volunteer on the board for the St. Peter's Free Healthcare Clinic.

Currently HCS has around 60 students enrolled in virtual learning K-12. Given the demand for virtual programming as well as some of the shortcomings in virtual instruction/learning experienced over the last few years, Mr. Perrin's role will be working with the virtual learning educators, as well as with our K-12 curriculum team to create a virtual learning program that provides quality learning experiences for students, virtually. Since assuming his role at the beginning of January, Mr. Perrin has been working with both virtual and traditional in-person educators within the district to provide continuity across learning platforms to ensure that virtual students receive a quality educational experience.

Hillsdale Athletic Booster Club Needs You

Sports have been a staple of the high school experience for as long as anyone can remember. Just take a look at the walls in the corridor of the HHS cafeteria entrance to see a vast history of team and individual sports that spans decades. HHS holds opportunities for every learner. Much of those opportunities are made possible through the hard work and dedication of the Hillsdale Athletic Booster Club. The Boosters are responsible for all of the concessions as well as many uniforms and equipment purchases that help to make sports at HHS a possibility. The Booster Club exists through the support of parents and caregivers that are willing to volunteer time and resources for our student athletes. This year alone HBC has donated over \$20,000 to support student athletes! The Booster Club needs YOU! Parents and caregivers with student athletes at HHS, please consider joining and supporting the Hillsdale High School Athletic Booster Club. There are a number of ways to participate, for example, the Boosters always need help with concessions. Also, February 12, 2022 the HBC will be hosting its annual Cash Drawing at the Elks Lodge. The Cash Drawing tickets are \$100/each. The event includes dinner and over \$15,000 in cash prizes. Contact Dave Loader, HBC President, or Kim Spratt, Vice-President for more information or see any HBC member to buy your ticket.



Bailey Early Childhood Center News

The Early Childhood Special Education program (ECSE) offered at Bailey Early Childhood Center services children who reside in the Hillsdale Community Schools District. Young children, ages 3-5, who qualify for special education, receive individualized instruction that may include related services such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy. Our ECSE program ensures the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all eligible children as well as encouraging interaction with same aged peers within the building. Our staff is committed to helping children reach their learning potential in a language rich environment where experiences in social skills and motor skills are also key components of their school day.

Preschool Round Up is coming soon! Do you have a child who will turn 4 by December 1, 2022? Bailey Early Childhood Center provides a high quality kindergarten readiness program through hands-on interactions, stories, songs, games and play. We offer:

- Full Day GSRP and tuition based preschool classes
- ½ Day GSRP and tuition based preschool class
- Free transportation provided
- Free meals provided
- Field trips and special events

Preschool Roundup will take place at Bailey, by appointment, Thursday, April 21, 2022, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call the Bailey office at 517- 437-7369 with questions about signing up for preschool.



Transportation Department News

Though the transportation center has had some struggles, due to the shortage of bus drivers, this has not diminished the love they have for Hornet Nation! Drivers have remained positive, are enjoying getting to know new students, and participated in the district's spirit week including tie dye day and Disney day where the drivers were all Dalmatians and the transportation secretary was Cruella de Vil.

The bus population has grown this year allowing HCS drivers to interact with a lot more "Hornets." Getting to know the students and having an impact on their day is what the drivers love most about their job. The drivers come in daily with funny stories, talk about the athletic event they drove the night before and problems a student may have talked with them about. Even though the drivers only have a few seconds to smile and say "hi," this can really help a student turn their day around. The students really notice when a driver takes interest in the job they are doing. Just by saying, "hey, great game last night" or "how'd you do in math class today" can really boost a student's spirit.

There are so many great kids at HCS and drivers are glad to be able to talk with them, laugh with them and take them to and from school every single day!

HCS Receives Donations

Hillsdale County Community Foundation awarded two donations to Hillsdale Schools including \$2,626 to the Band Instrument Fund and \$1,950 to Hillsdale High School's Future Corp. \$1,950.

The Hillsdale High School Robotics team received a \$3,000 donation from John and Kenette Spratt.

Thank you for your support!



HCS Receives Multiple Grants

The Walmart Community Grants Team and Facility #1809 recently awarded Bailey Early Childhood Center a \$1,000.00 grant to go towards the purchase of two toddler playhouse cubes to use with children who are struggling with emotional regulation and feeling safe in the school setting. Pictured (L-R) Jennifer Heady, Walmart Representative and Shelley Ellis, HCS Representative.

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation Youth Committee recently met and made recommendations to the Board of trustees to determine recent distributions of the W.K. Kellogg Advisory Fund. Awarded was the HHS Freshman Mentor Program for \$894. HCCF awarded the Youth Grant to the HHS Cheer Team for \$350.

The Hillsdale Community Schools Education Foundation Fund Selection Committee recently met and chose the recipients of the distribution of the Hillsdale Community Schools Foundation Fund. They awarded several \$500 mini grants to: Davis Middle School: Art Department and Educational Technology Class; Hillsdale High School Library, HHS Book Club and Trap Club.

Thank you to Hillsdale County Community Foundation who provides financial guidance and fund management.



Davis BPA Logo Winners

Congratulations to 8th grade students at Davis Middle School, Bryn Adams and Grace Yager. In September, they entered the State Middle Level Graphic Design Competition for BPA (Business Professionals of America). They had to design a logo, slogan, and flyer for the State BPA Conference which will be held in Grand Rapids in February. They spent many hours planning, designing, and creating their design with their advisor, Mrs. Wilson and Mindy Eggleston (HCCF). They recently received a congratulatory email from the State BPA leader, saying their design and slogan won and was one of the best ones the judges had seen. Their design will be made into pins for all BPA middle school students in the state to wear when they compete and will be featured in all BPA promotional materials. Their slogan is "Back to Business" and is about having the courage and faith to hang onto the things that matter most in our lives, where we live, learn, and play. Congratulations, ladies, and good luck at States!

Congratulations On a Pending Retirement

High School Principal, Amy Goldsmith, is looking forward to a planned retirement from Hillsdale Community Schools at the end of this school year after working 32 years in education. A Hornet alumna, she has worked at Hillsdale High School since 2006. Goldsmith spent 11 years in the classroom teaching Spanish and English at HHS. During this time, she received the Stanton Foundation Teacher of the Year Special Recognition award in 2016 and was the Stanton Foundation Hillsdale County Teacher of the Year in 2017. She was also voted Teacher of the Year by the senior class in 2017. In the fall of 2018, Goldsmith became Interim Principal of the high school and became Principal in 2019.

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Goldsmith served in many capacities during her tenure here: Council for Instructional Leadership Chair for External Review, School Improvement Chair, Instructional Coach, English Department Chair, Quiz Bowl Coach, Play Director, Student Council Adviser, Class Adviser, Freshman Mentor Program Coordinator, and grant writer. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Key Women Educators organization) and has been a mentor and supervising teacher for many aspiring educators.

Goldsmith said, " I cherish my time as an educator. It was a calling. It was especially wonderful because of the staff with whom I had the pleasure to work. One of my biggest joys has been working with students and families throughout my many years as both teacher and principal. In my personal life, I love cooking, and adore traveling, my family and dogs. I am very much looking forward to spending more time traveling more with my husband and my family and walking my dogs more often. Here's to so many GREAT years being a Hornet!