

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *Newsletter*



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP
Students for Life

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Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway



Just Around the Corner

While we often look back at our successes as a school district, I am optimistic about what is “just around the corner” for Harper Creek Community Schools. HCCS proves each new year that it is the school district of choice, and this year it is growing with many families moving into our District. What is coming is exciting for students, staff, and our community.

HCCS students take the NWEA test in the spring and fall. Results from test scores show that changes made in the curriculum, like MID SCHOOL MATH have increased confidence in math. Letrs, Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, training is helping our younger students see themselves as readers. All of this shines a light on what is right around the corner: all students finding success in the classroom and wherever they fly into the future.

Test scores do not improve with rote memorization, boring lessons, or worksheets. In order for growth to happen in classrooms, teachers must be passionate and equitable. HCCS has a staff dedicated to learning, growing, and providing a world-class education. Our teachers, para-educators, support staff, bus drivers, custodians, food service department, maintenance, and administration understand that at Harper Creek Community Schools, we educate all children.

HCCS has the best kids in the business. While our students are much more than a product on the shelf, they are the product of this high-quality education. Our students are valuable not only here at school, but also when they venture to college, trade school, military service, and beyond. HCCS wants to have students become thinkers. Providing kids with direction, character awareness, and vital career paths is next.

We don't become world-class without hard work, pride, and commitment to honoring the past and looking to the future. Just around the corner at Harper Creek Community Schools is exciting. What we can dream up, we can do.

Rob Ridgeway
Superintendent
Harper Creek Community Schools



BEYOND THE CEREAL BOWL Community Partnership Breakfast Harper Creek Community Schools November 16, 2023



Harper Creek Community Schools will be holding its bi-monthly Community Partnership Breakfast, Beyond the Cereal Bowl, on November 16, 2023, at 7:30 AM in the Harper Creek High School Media Center. Beyond the Cereal Bowl is for community partners and interested supporters to hear from area leaders on what is happening throughout the district and community. Breakfast begins promptly at 7:30 AM and presentations and announcements follow. For more information or to RSVP please call Karla Kopp at 269-441-6555.

Beadle Lake Elementary Fall Fest

By Nneka Daniels, Principal

On a rainy Wednesday evening, families converged on Beadle Lake for October Fall Fest. We tuned on the disco ball and kicked off the evening with Flashlight Reading in the gym. Families also played bingo and went to the pumpkin decorating room and the tattoo room. We had yummy donuts and cider and wrapped up the night with a Glow Run on our new track. Kids went round and round the track and collected 500 Glow bracelets which is equivalent to 125 miles ran. Great job Beadle Lake!

Beadle Lake Elementary is handing out LEAD bracelets. Each LEAD commitment is on a different colored bracelet. Every time Beadle Lake students attend a family night; they can choose a new bracelet. Principal Daniels is challenging Beadle Lake students to collect all four bracelets.





2023-2024 Events Calendar

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov 3	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Fall Play - Alice in Wonderland HC High School Auditorium
Nov 4	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Fall Play - Alice in Wonderland HC High School Auditorium
Nov 5	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Fall Play - Alice in Wonderland HC High School Auditorium
Nov 6	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Sonoma Elementary PTA Meeting
Nov 8		Early Release
Nov 8	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	6th, 7th and 8th Grade Choir Concert High School Auditorium
Nov 9	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	7th & 8th Grade Band Concert High School Auditorium
Nov 10		End of the Elementary Trimester
Nov 10		Half Day of School
Nov 11	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Harper Holly Days at HC High School
Nov 13	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Board of Education Meeting Administration Building
Nov 15		Early Release
Nov 16		Sonoma Picture Retakes
Nov 22		Half Day of School
Nov 23		No School
Nov 24		No School
Nov 29		Early Release

DECEMBER 2023

Dec 4	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Sonoma PTA Meeting
Dec 6		Early Release
Dec 7	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Budget Committee Meeting
Dec 11	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Regular Board of Education Meeting Administration Building
Dec 13		Early Release
Dec 13	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	HS Choir Concert HC High School AuditoriumW
Dec 14	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Holiday Band Concert HC High School Auditorium
Dec 19	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	6th Grade Band Concert HC High School Auditorium
Dec 21		Half Day of School
Dec 22		Half Day of School
Dec 22	11:15 AM to 12:15 PM	MS/HS End of Quarter 2/Semester 1
Dec 25-Jan 5		Winter Break

JANUARY 2024

Jan 4	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Budget Committee Meeting
Jan 8	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Sonoma PTA Meeting
Jan 8	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Regular Board of Education Meeting
Jan 10		Early Release
Jan 15		No School
Jan 17		Early Release
Jan 24		Early Release
Jan 31		Early Release

FEBRUARY 2024

Feb 5	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Sonoma PTA Meeting
Feb 7		Early Release
Feb 7		HS Choir Pre-Festival Concert HC High School Auditorium
Feb 7	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Middle and High School Pre-Festival Concert HC High School Auditorium
Feb 8	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Budget Committee Meeting
Feb 9	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Blood Drive HC High School Auditorium
Feb 12	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Regular Board of Education Meeting Administration Building
Feb 13	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	7th & 8th Pre-Festival Concert HC High School Auditorium
Feb 14		Early Release
Feb 15	4:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Beadle Lake Spring Conferences
Feb 20	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	HS Band Pre-Festival Concert HC High School Auditorium
Feb 21		Early Release
Feb 23		End of Elementary Trimester 2
Feb 23		Half Day of School
Feb 26		No School
Feb 28		Early Release

Sonoma Elementary

Learning and Growing

By Shalen King-Short, Sonoma Elementary Principal

Our students, parents and community have helped to kick off this year with excitement! We have had multiple opportunities for students to engage with our Harper Creek Community and grow our students' experiences inside and outside the classroom.

We are fortunate to have such a supportive community. Our students' passion for learning shows in each picture. We are LEADers who love to learn and grow together here at Sonoma!





Wattles Park Elementary

Fall at Wattles Park Elementary

By Brent Swan, Wattles Park Elementary Principal

It's been a busy time to the start of the school year at Wattles Park Elementary. Our students have been busy learning new concepts, participating in our school's Read-A-Thon, having fun at the Grandparent's Ice Cream Social and Bookfair, several field trips, and so much more.



Harper Creek Middle School

Middle School Student Named to State Choir for Second Consecutive Year

By Alex Port, Choir Director, HCHS and HCMS

Congratulations to Rose Morehead, eighth grade student, for being accepted into the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Middle School State Honors Choir for the second year in a row! Based on her audition, Rose was selected as one of a few hundred choir students from all over of Michigan to participate. In January, she will represent Harper Creek when the state honors choir performs at the Michigan Music Conference for thousands of people at the DeVos Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids. Please commend Rose on all of her hard work!



Rose Morehead and Alex Port, Choir Director.

Harper Creek Middle School

Harper Creek Middle School students learn about their community!

By Kim Thayer, Middle School Principal

At Harper Creek Middle School, the staff is committed to providing community experiences to our students. Just recently, students have attended the MICareerQuest at the Kalamazoo Expo Center, a Hispanic Flamenco Ballet sponsored by BCreative and the Miller Foundation that showcased dances from Mexico, Spain, Rio de Janeiro, and Cuba, Department of Defense STARBASE Program at the Air National Guard Base, and a United States Flag presentation put on by Veterans from American Legion Post 298. HCMS thanks all of our community partners!





Arts and Athletics Shine at Harper Creek High School

By Ed Greenman, High School Principal

The leaves have turned and with fall season will soon turn to winter and the busy fall schedule for the arts and athletics at the high school are also coming to an end. Some recent highlights and performances to be aware of are:



- Our girls volleyball team won both the all-city and league championship.
- The girls golf team also hung a league championship banner in the gymnasium.
- Our football team played their 9th game of the year at Ford field in Detroit and our pom and cheer teams along with our marching band joined them for a great experience.
- Our choirs hosted and thrived at a Prado concert at our high school. Local schools joined us for an exciting day in the auditorium.
- Our jazz band and choir had a performance for the community on October 25, and as always, did a great job.
- On November 3, 4, and 5 our students will be performing "Alice in Wonderland" in the auditorium. They have been practicing for a couple of months and we are looking forward to having the community come out and support a great show.



As we educate, empower and equip our students for life both in and out of the classroom, we love to say that, "It's a great day to be a Harper Creek Beaver."



Constructing A Culture of Collaboration

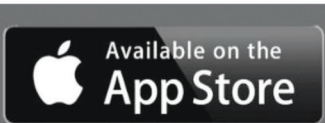
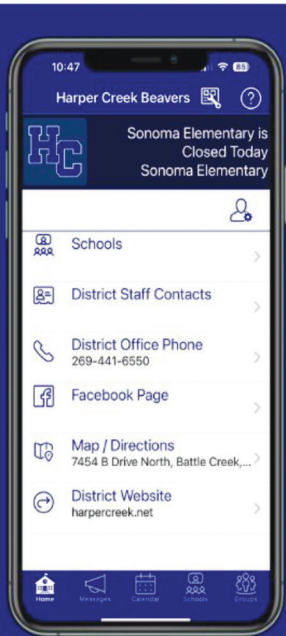
By Laura Williams - Assistant Superintendent

Our school year is off to an excellent start and that is largely due to the efforts of our teachers, students, parents and administrators. They are all working intentionally to build cultures where collaboration is the heart of everything we do. This has resulted in improving our effectiveness by using data to drive decision-making and evaluate the impact of our programs and support services created to improve outcomes for all of our DK-12 students. This district-wide strategy to support student growth towards their post secondary dreams, focuses on building a safe and positive environment in which all students can achieve their fullest potential academically and socially.

These continuous improvement strategies will increase student and staff sense of belonging and will better prepare our students to have life long citizenship skills that will be used in their adult life. Through our viable curriculum, students will learn more about themselves, have embedded opportunities for reflection and goal setting as they uncover their talents and passions that they can develop towards a successful future.



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Harper Creek High School Theater Presents: Alice in Wonderland

Adapted by Anne Coulter Martens



Harper Creek High School Auditorium
November 3rd and 4th – 7:00 P.M.
November 5th – 2:00 P.M.

Tickets available at the high school office or at the door
Adults – \$8
Students and those over 65 – \$5
Under 5 years old – Free
Cash only, please

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