

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff,
Assistant Principal

“ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES”

To: Students, Parents, and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal
Re: October/November Family Update
Date: November 23, 2022

The months of October and November have been very busy at HAHS as we wrapped up the first quarter of the year, the fall athletic and marching band seasons, and have now begun the winter seasons.

Our students and staff have contributed to a positive atmosphere at HAHS. We have a lot to be thankful for, so as we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, we hope that you can reflect upon the school experience with your child, and we wish you a relaxing break.

In addition to general school updates, there's a lot of positive items to share, so please see below for an update on many of the recent activities as well as some upcoming events.

And remember, as we hear on the announcements each morning by junior Lincoln Miller, *“Bearcat Pride Never Dies!”*

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
HAHS Principal

Academic Information and School Updates

- **11/23 Modified Day Activities**
 - During modified or half days, especially before breaks, HAHS looks to provide meaningful activities and opportunities that serve both as learning experiences and fun rewards. Thanks to the Miss Book and Student Council for organizing various activities during today's half day, and other groups for promoting events. See descriptions of the activities below
 - **Thankfulness Activity**
 - To start the day, students watched a video about gratitude. Then, they completed an activity where they wrote a thank you to a community member, a thank you for a family member, friend, or school personnel, and finally, added a link to a school thankfulness chain. This was a great activity to reflect and to show appreciation to others, and the responses were very thoughtful
 - **Turkey Trot**
 - The annual Turkey Trot is organized by the HAHS Kinnect Club. As students walked to downtown Huntingdon to present a donation to the Clifton 5, they were also treated to a hot chocolate by Sheetz
 - We had approximately 80 participants that went on the walk. See pictures in the ADDENDUM

- **5K Run**
 - As part of an NHS service project, Aiden Kelsey organized a 5K run on the HASD campus. Please see a picture of the participants in the ADDENDUM
- **Winter Keystone Exams**
 - HAHS will be giving the winter wave of the Keystone Exams in mid-January
 - Exam Dates: Algebra I - Tuesday, 1/10; Literature - Wednesday, 1/11; Biology - Thursday, 1/12
 - Most students taking the exams during the winter window are students that are retaking the exams. HAHS expects all students to continue to test until they reach a proficient status
 - The exams are one important component of the Act 158 graduation pathways. Additional pathways are share with students and listed in the HAHS handbook and website
 - Students that will be taking the exams will receive letters in mid-December
- **FAFSA Completion Night**
 - HAHS is hosting FAFSA Completion Night for the Class of 2023 on Tuesday, November 29th from 3:00-6:00pm. Families can sign up for a 30-minute appointment for individualized assistance to complete the FAFSA application
 - Students and guardians are both welcome, and it is *not* required that both the student and their guardian attend
 - Attendees must pre-register by signing up at www.bit.ly/HAHSfafsa
 - Additional information regarding financial aid can be found by seniors in the Google Classroom
- **LiveSchool Information**
 - HAHS teachers have been using the platform LiveSchool to recognize students for their positive BEARCATS behaviors, as part of the Positive School Wide program
 - Families will be receiving information after the Thanksgiving break regarding how to monitor student recognitions and to address behavior concerns
 - Students will be able to “cash in” their LiveSchool points for rewards when we return to school
- **Marking Period 1 Grades**
 - Grades for the first marking period of the year were released on Wednesday, November 2 via the Skyward Family Access portal
 - Our overall student performance continues to improve as we return to “normalcy” after the pandemic
 - Student deficiencies for the first three weeks of MP2 were posted on Friday, 11/18
- **Student Council MP2 Kick-Off**
 - Thanks to the HAHS Student Council for decoration Streamers for the start of MP2
 - See a picture of this group in the ADDENDUM
- **PSAT Testing**
 - PSAT testing was held for all sophomores and interested juniors on October 25
 - The PSAT not only serves as practice for the SATs and a gauge on college readiness, but may also be used to satisfy state Act 158 graduation requirements if a qualifying score is earned
 - The PSATs for juniors are used for consideration for the National Merit Scholarship
- **HCCTC Field Trip and Pictures**
 - Grade 9 students from HAHS had the opportunity to visit the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center (HCCTC) on Tuesday, November 8
 - The CTC is a great career readiness option, with 11 different programs. We hope that students consider this as an educational opportunity, and one that helps to satisfy graduation requirements
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences were held on Thursday, November 10
 - Thanks to Mrs. Shugarts from IU11 for presenting an evening seminar, titled “Resiliency: We Have It and We Build It.” The focus of the session was on teen stress, anxiety, and resilience

- **Veteran's Day Assembly**

- The National Honor Society hosted a Veterans Day assembly for HAHS on Thursday, November 10
- There was a lot of work and preparation by the assembly committee, Ryan Marshall, Isaac Cummings, and Henry Kyper, and the advisors Mrs. Werner and Mrs. McMath
- Students, staff, and community guests and Veterans saw a program that included student Voice of Democracy speeches by Jamie Hemcher, Olivia Ghaner, and Lily Fiscus, a speech by our honored guest, Colonel Lawrence B. Havird, who is in command of the Penn State University ROTC, and drill work by the PSU Detachment 720 Drill and Honor guard
- The presentation was great, and many guests commented about the solemnity of the ceremony, and the great performances by our students, including our band and choir
- Please see the ADDENDUM for pictures, as well as the Veteran's Wall that the NHS created

School Activities

- **Spirit Week and Homecoming: October 3 - October 8**

- This year's Spirit Week theme at HAHS was "As Seen on TV"
- Please see the ADDENDUM for pictures from the various events, including the daily themes, the parade, the Pep Rally, and Mr. Huntingdon
- Congratulations to our Homecoming Queen, Cinnny Fagan, and our Mr. Huntingdon, Ryan "Yogi" Yocum
- Special thanks to Student Council advisor, Cass Book, for her organization of these activities, and to Mrs. Buckley for her support

- **Agriculture Information**

- **FFA CDE's**
 - FFA Students participated in the Fall Career Development Event, known as the CDE's, at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds on September 28
 - Congrats to Henry Kyper who won the tractor driving competition
- **FFA Ag in the Classroom**
 - The Huntingdon FFA held the local Ag in the Classroom event for on October 12 for local elementary students
 - It's great to spread awareness about agriculture and STEM
 - See pictures from both events in the ADDENDUM
- **Hosting the State Secretary of Agriculture**
 - HAHS hosted the PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, on Friday, November 18 to speak to our Agriculture and Environmental Science students. Representative Rich Irvin also visited with students. Please see pictures in the ADDENDUM
 - Thanks to Mr. Dell for organizing this event!
- **New Agriculture Teacher**
 - HAHS got a new face to lead our Agriculture education and FFA on Monday, 11/21. HAHS welcomes Mrs. Michaela Knepp to our school!
 - Mrs. Knepp hails from Huntingdon County, and will be a great addition to our staff!

- **Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Spanish Activity**

- In October and November Spanish 2 & 4 students learned about Mexican culture through the lens of the Día de Muertos celebration. The goal is to understand the traditional activities, symbolism, vocabulary and history associated with this monumental holiday that is celebrated in Central and South American countries along with Mexico and the United States. Students learn how to **appreciate** rather than **appropriate** this culture.
- Students help set up the "altar de ofrenda" which is displayed in the hallway to hold items that are symbolic of Día de Muertos. This close to authentic recreation also serves as a place to showcase artwork done by students past and present.
- The "ofrenda" holds all traditional items that are found in Mexico from foods & drinks, to sugar skulls (calaveras), mariachi instruments, papel picado decoration, & most notably candles and

marigolds that create overwhelming orange glow visible in cemeteries across Central America during November 1st & 2nd.

- Spanish 4 students created alebrijes which are mythical creatures who sport mixed species features and colorful intricate designs.
- We end the unit with connecting the language, to the people, to the culture, and experience it through the food. Students unpack the history of the flavors that create Mexican cuisine and then sample and reflect on the items they've tried.
- Finally, they view the movie Coco and write an analysis to support their opinion about the accuracy of the movie's depiction of Mexican Día de Muertos culture.
- Please see pictures in the ADDENDUM!
- **Art Walk Information**
 - **October**
 - HAHS students participated in Art Walk at Standing Stone Coffee Company on October 20
 - This event, called "Spill the Tea," included Senior Studio Artists Eva Morris, Rebecca Swartz, and Gracie Hobbs
 - There were various items for sale at the event, and our students represented HAHS well
 - **November**
 - HAHS held the November Art Walk on Thursday, 11/17, at the HAHS Auditorium Lobby
 - Thanks to Mr. Earl Eby for leading the leatherworking activities. See pictures in the ADDENDUM
- **Clifton 5 Bake Sale/Service Project**
 - Seniors Rachel Dixon, Tessa Smith, Rylee Fraenza, Derek Bierly, and Conner Thompson organized a bake sale service project to benefit the Clifton 5 during the community's Halloween parade
 - These students did a great job, and the deserts were delicious!
- **Marching Cats Recognition**
 - Congrats to the Huntingdon Area Marching Cats for their performance at the TOB Region XI Championships on October 22
 - The band earned a GOLD rating in the festival class, and got to see a performance by the Pitt Marching Band
 - Congrats to percussionist Shane King for winning the Outstanding Performer of the Week recognition
 - See Pictures in the ADDENDUM
- **Powder Puff Football**
 - A Powder Puff football game, between the grade levels, was organized by senior Ryan Sullivan as an NHS service project and fundraiser for CHAMP. See pictures in the ADDENDUM, and congrats to our senior winners!
- **Winter Band and Choral Concerts**
 - The following are our Holiday Concerts held at the Herbert S. Williams Performing Arts Center at Huntingdon Area High School:
 - December 5th @ 6:30 pm - Southside K-2 Christmas Concert
 - December 6th @ 6:30 pm - Southside 3-5 Christmas Concert
 - December 7th @ 6:30 pm - Standing Stone K-2 Christmas Concert
 - December 8th @ 6:30 pm - Standing Stone 3-5 Christmas Concert
 - December 14th @ 7:00 pm - Middle School Band and Choir Christmas Concert
 - December 21th @ 7:00 pm - High School Band and Choir Christmas Concert

Student Recognitions

- **Student Cross Country Recognition**
 - Congratulations to Tyler Rader, HAHS Junior, for his second place finish at the PIAA State Cross Country Championships (Class A)
- **HAHS County Chorus Participants**
 - HAHS had approximately 30 students participate in the County Chorus Festival held at Southern Huntingdon County High School on Tuesday, 11/22. Please see a listing of the participants in the ADDENDUM
- **Students of the Month**
 - Congratulations to our **October** Students of the Month
 - Grade 9: Maliyah Harbst
 - Grade 10: Rasheem Hughes
 - Grade 11: Shelby Beaver
 - Grade 12: Rachel Dixon
 - Congratulations to our **November** Students of the Month
 - Grade 9: Molly Millar
 - Grade 10: Nathan Susko
 - Grade 11: Liam Simpson
 - Grade 12: Ryan Sullivan
 - Keep up the great work! See pictures of our Students of the Month in the ADDENDUM

ADDENDUM

Turkey Trot





5K



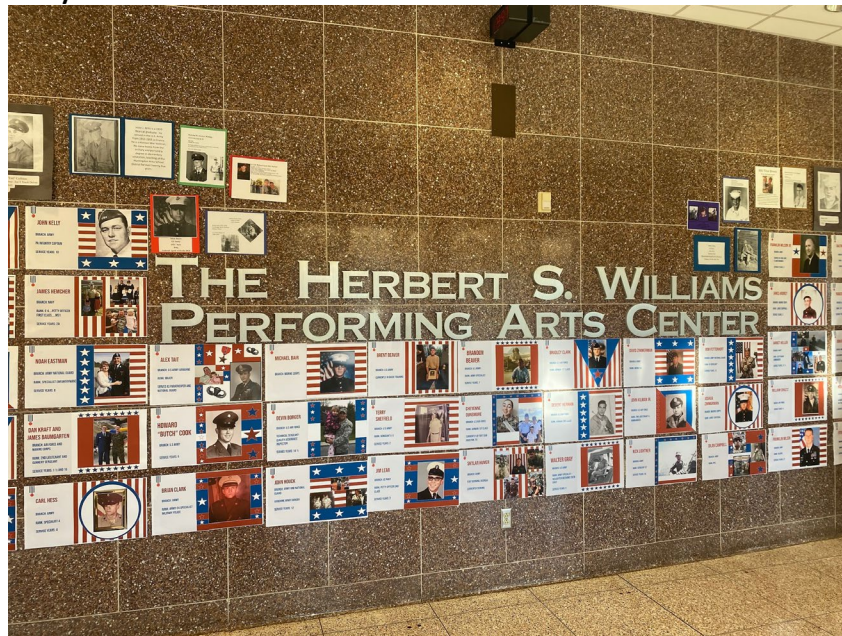
MP2 Student Council Decorations



Grade 9 HCCTC Field Trip



Veteran's Day Assembly



Homecoming/Spirit Week Photos







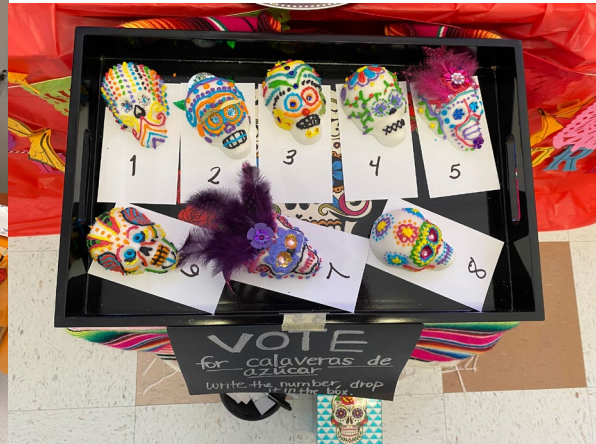
FFA CDE's and Ag in the Classroom



Secretary Redding and Representative Irvin Visit



Day of the Dead



Art Walk



Clifton 5 Bake Sale



Marching Cats



Cross Country - 2nd Place!



**Students of the Month
October**



Pictured Left to Right: Rachel Dixon, Rasheem Hughes, Maliyah Harbst, Shelby Beaver

November



Pictured Left to Right: Molly Millar, Nathan Susko, Liam Simpson, Ryan Sullivan

Powder Puff





2022 HUNTINGDON COUNTY CHORUS FESTIVAL

Huntingdon Area High School
Miss Trisha Johnson

Soprano

Madi Kiselevach
Sylvia Mitchell
Rachel Goodman
Jenna Hicks
Sara Reed
Alexis Satta
Catherine Weld
Emilie Hayden
Sophia Mitchell

Alto

Lee Childs
Kieya McGrath
Zoey Norris
Emily Wood
Anna Hockenberry
Abby Corbin
Liv Weidel
Olivia McKinney
Sabrina Kyper
Maddie Wood
Allison Cantrell

Tenor

Mars Feagley
Sean McGrath
Kyba McLane
Korey Emel
Aislin Wright
Brady Young

Bass

Dasan Kristo
Wyatt Millar
Henry Kyper
Cooper Phillips
Brogan Little