

# HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Travis R. Lee,  
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## **"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"**

**To:** HAHS Students and Families  
**From:** Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal  
**Re:** HAHS School Update  
**Date:** November 18, 2021

Greetings Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Please see below for various school updates and reminders. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we hope that our students will be able to reflect about what they are thankful for as well as to enjoy a well-deserved break as we prepare for our December activities, the holiday break, and continuing work during the second marking period.

Sincerely,

Travis R Lee,  
HAHS Principal

### **Updates and Information:**

- **Keystone Exams**
  - The Winter Keystone Exams will be held December 7th, 8th, and 9th for Biology, Literature, and Algebra I
  - HAHS still has yet to receive the official score reports from the Spring 2021 session. Learners and families will receive the official results as soon as they are received (expected mid-December)
  - The Winter exams will mostly consist of exam retakes for the Class of 2023 or others retaking the Algebra I exam. These tests are important for the new state graduation requirements
  - All learners that will be taking the exams will be notified near the Thanksgiving holiday, and a mailing will be sent to families
- **Freshmen HCCTC Field Trip**
  - On December 7th and 8th, freshmen from HAHS will take a field trip to visit the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center
  - Students will get to visit each of the twelve programs at the HCCTC to see the variety of options offered. Learners will also be treated to lunch at the HCCTC
  - These learners did not get to attend a traditional field trip to the HCCTC as 8th graders. Therefore, this trip is important so that they get exposure to the programs before the 22-23 scheduling process begins in late winter/early spring
  - The HAHS freshmen class will be divided into two groups, with half of the class attending on 12/7, and the other half of the class on 12/8. These two dates make use of days when instruction will already be interrupted due to the administration of the Winter Keystone Exams. The exam retakes will not impact the freshmen class on these days

- **Grading Updates**
  - Grades for Marking Period 1 were released via Skyward approximately two weeks ago
  - Though grades are to be updated weekly via Skyward, the days prior to our coming breaks, Wednesday, 11/24, and Thursday, 12/23 will serve as checkpoints for MP2. Deficiency notices for learners currently earning a D or an F in a class will be sent to families via the Skyward Family Access portal
  - We hope that all students can continue to follow the BEARCATS expectations of Being Engaged and Acting Responsibly, and adhere to assignment guidelines and deadlines in order to facilitate learning and understanding, ultimately resulting in academic success!
- **HAHS Cell Phone Use Modifications**
  - To start the 21-22 School Year, HAHS implemented a strict no cell phone policy
  - The implementation of the new procedures helped in creating an atmosphere of greater focus and attention during instructional time, and has drawn awareness to the need of not needing to be “connected” to a phone device continuously
  - However, the HAHS staff also shared the unintended consequences of the new procedure with school administrations, particularly during non-instructional times and when a personal device has merit within the classroom. With this information, modified procedures have been established, with overwhelming staff support
  - The procedures were shared during a principal assemblies this week, and teachers shared their updated classroom expectations
  - Though there is great flexibility overall, note that students must follow the expectations that teachers set in their individual classrooms, and that the same procedures for violations will remain in place
  - A listing of the information that was shared with students can be viewed in the APPENDIX
  - In addition, a shift to focusing on the proper use of cell phones as technology and etiquette practices will be explored
- **Service Professionals Day**
  - Wednesday, November 17th was Service Professionals Day
  - HAHS greatly appreciates the work of our services professionals to keep our buildings clean and welcoming, to keep our learners well fed, healthy, and ready to learn, and to support our teaching staff and administrators in helping our students
  - The important work of these individuals does not go unnoticed!
- **New Staff Welcome**
  - HAHS recently welcomed Mrs. Ramona Teeters as the new High School Library Paraprofessional
  - Mrs. Teeters has served the district for twenty years, most recently in the role Southside Elementary’s Head Cook
  - We welcome her to the high school to continue to support our students in a different manner
- **Staff Departure**
  - Ms. Sara Neild, high school counselor, is serving her last week at HAHS
  - We thank Ms. Neild for her four years of service at HAMS and HAHS as a teacher and school counselor, and wish her well in her new position at Penn State University
  - Mrs. Melanie Snare, school counselor, will be taking over the school counseling duties for all students while we seek to replace Ms. Neild
  - Please remember that we have the support of our social work, Mrs. Hershberger, our college advisor, Mr. Wright, and our entire Student Assistance Program (SAP) team to continue to support our students
- **Stone Lot Parking Closure**
  - The stone lot parking area behind HAHS will officially be closed to student parking when we return from our Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, December 1
  - This impacts very few student drivers, and they have already been notified, but we want all to be aware

- **Tutoring Update**
  - HAHS continues to have the support of Juniata College's PALS tutoring program
  - Students will be receiving a reminder about the program, and updates regarding how the program can be utilized
  - If you would like your student to benefit from tutoring, please contact to high school office
- **Wednesday, November 24 School Activities**
  - With the half-day schedule prior to Thanksgiving break, HAHS is using the modified day to incorporate
  - **Turkey Trot**
    - The HAHS Kinnect Class has organized a Turkey Trot on Wednesday, Nov. 24
    - Students can pay \$5 in order to go on the walk, which will begin after the homeroom period
    - Students will walk across Juniata College, down Moore St., through town, and end at the Huntingdon Historical Society, where we will present a donation in the amount that is raised from the number of students attending. Along the way, Sheetz will donate a free hot chocolate or coffee to each student. The return walk will bring students back to the high school in time for lunch.
    - Final deadline for permission slips and money, to the Kinnect teachers, is Friday, November 19
  - **The Social Dilemma**
    - For students not participating in the Turkey Trot, there will be a school-wide social of the award winning popular documentary, The Social Dilemma (PG-13)
    - This documentary examines various issues regarding social media and technology use, as told by numerous of the developers that see the shortcomings of this type of media and technology
    - We hope that this documentary serves as an educational tool regarding awareness about these issues, and to help our learners make more informed decisions regarding technology use and digital citizenship
    - There are multiple resources available to families to help enhance understanding and awareness regarding social media use, cell phone use, and digital citizenship as well. Two of these resources are shared below:
      - [Common Sense Media](#)
      - [Shape the Sky - Ryan Klingensmith](#)
- **PBIS Recognition**
  - HAHS was once again recognized as a banner-level school for Tier I implementation of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program
  - We thank our Positive School Wide Student Empowerment Team (SET), our Tier I Coach, Mrs. Sarah Marter, Tier II Coach, Mr. Matt Marter, and our PSW teacher team for this recognition
  - We will continue to focus additional efforts on the development and implementation of our Tier II support, and we look forward to our next PBIS celebration, the Reindeer Games in December
- **Veterans Day Assembly**
  - The National Honor Society organized a Veterans Day Assembly on Wednesday, November 10
  - We would like to thank our honored guest, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Campbell, Army National Guard, and husband of HAHS math teacher Mrs. Campbell, for his presentation at the assembly
  - A highlight of the day was Lt. Col. Campbell's push-up competition with Isaac Cummings
  - See pictures in the APPENDIX of our Voice of Democracy speech competition presenters, Ali Hemcher and Lily Fiscus, of the push-up competition between Lt. Col. Campbell and Isaac Cummings, of our featured instrumental soloists, Henry Kyper and Paige Wilson, our mistress of ceremonies, Savanna Fiscus, and of our seniors that have already committed to the military, Cheyenne Dunsmore, Dylan Frye, and Eden Wagner

- **National Honor Society Induction Ceremony**

- The fall National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on the evening of Wednesday, November 10
- The society welcomed 18 Juniors to join our 21 Seniors in the NHS
- We congratulate our newcomers to this prestigious academic organization as they strive to fulfill the four pillars of the NHS, which include Scholarship, Character, Leadership, and Service
- See the APPENDIX for pictures from the event

- **Students of the Month**

- Teachers nominated learners for Student of the Month recognitions for September and October
- HAHS wants to congratulate the following students for this recognition
  - Grade 9: September - Ella Haffey; October - Bridget Goodman
  - Grade 10: September - Kyba McLane; October - Morgan Heffner
  - Grade 11: September - Sofia Gutshall; October - Ryan Sullivan
  - Grade 12: September - Hilary Stromer; October - Oscar Tuten

- **Art Recognitions and Information**

- For the first time ever, a HAHS student has won the “Best of Show” at the Scholastic 144 Juried Art Exhibit, hosted by the Shippensburg University Art Department. Congratulations to Rebecca Swartz for this honor.
- For the month of November, HAHS will be showing our thanks using button making at Art Walk. We will have unique Thanksgiving-themed templates for anyone who wishes to use them, or you could create a unique design all your own. Art can be a great way to express what you’re thankful for. Our button maker is easy to use for all ages and we look forward to seeing everyone on November 18th in the High School Auditorium Lobby!

- **Agriculture SIM Update**

- Mrs. Sellers’ Plant and Soil Science class completed a microscope lab and the Introduction to Agriculture class completed wildlife identification lab, both with the support of Science in Motion
- HAHS is pleased to be able to use the SIM resources in the agriculture courses
- See pictures in the APPENDIX from these classroom activities

- **Homecoming Update**

- Congratulations to **Carley Mykut** for being crowned as the 2021 **homecoming queen** and to **Aaron Rothstein** for earning the designation of **Mr. Huntingdon**



- **HAHS Musical Broadway Revue Night**

- HAHS and HAMS students held a Broadway Revue Night on Tuesday, November 2nd in the HAHS auditorium
- Approximately 20 students participated in the event, performing a variety of classic and modern Broadway/Disney songs through singing, instrument playing, and dancing!
- The well-attended event served as a fundraiser for the spring musical, “Little Women”



## APPENDIX

### Updated Cell Phone Expectations

HASD – Home of the Bearcats 	HASD – Home of the Bearcats 
<h4>Cell Phone Update</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Permitted during non-instructional time at teacher discretion</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Phone Use/Non-Use System/signs in classrooms</li><li>◦ Teachers may utilize a storage location within the classroom</li></ul></li><li>◦ <b>Students must follow teacher expectations</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Teachers may permit no use within their classroom, as we've done thus far this year<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>The same procedures for phone misuse will be in place</b></li></ul></li><li>◦ Teachers may permit use at certain times, or permit as a resource for certain activities</li></ul></li></ul>	<h4>Cell Phone Update</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Lunchroom</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Phone use will be permitted</li><li>◦ We still want you to be engaged with your peers!</li><li>◦ Listen to you lunch duty monitors</li></ul></li><li>◦ <b>Study Halls</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Phone use permitted at teacher discretion</li><li>◦ Students need to continue to be actively focused on assignment completion and academics</li></ul></li></ul>
<h4>Cell Phone Update</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Why the Change?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Achieved the initial goal of creating an atmosphere of great focus and attention during instructional time</li><li>◦ Learned that we do not need to be connected to a device continuously</li><li>◦ <b>The school is taking a more flexible approach, but students must adhere to the revised expectations</b></li></ul></li></ul>	<h4>Cell Phone Update</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>No Phone Use Expectations</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Absolutely no phone use while in the <b>restrooms</b></li><li>◦ Absolutely no phone use during <b>school meetings or assemblies</b></li><li>◦ No phone use while <b>walking in the hallways</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Especially important during class transitions</li><li>◦ Safety for yourself and others!</li></ul></li><li>◦ No <b>social media</b> use during the school day</li><li>◦ No phone calls or texts during class time<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Ask teachers for permission when there is a need</li></ul></li><li>◦ There is not "passive permission"</li></ul></li></ul>
<h4>Cell Phone Update</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Additional Expectations</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Phones are not "mini iPads" or "scientific calculators"</li><li>◦ Phones are to be a resource - not to be used just to "pass the time"</li><li>◦ Education and Proper Use of Technology<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Cell phone etiquette</li><li>◦ Organizational features/apps/resources<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Productivity tools, how to connect to Google and calendars</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	

## Veterans Day Assembly





## National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



New Junior Inductees (Left to Right): Row 1: Aiden Kelsey, Delaney Dehart, Sofia Gutshall, Ryan Marshall, Isaac Cummings, Finn Bailey, Ryan Sullivan, and Jordyn Patrick. Row 2: Norah McClain, Maiya Linn, Sophia Lauer, Caitlin Hahn, Brynn Hercane, Maria Miller, Brandon Stuber, Alex Cassatt, Jordan Houck, and Riley Zerbe



## Agriculture Class Photos

