

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Secondary Principal

Mr. Brent A. Stoltzfus,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

August 6, 2019

Dear High School Parents and Guardians:

Summer is passing, and we are looking ahead to the beginning of a new school year at Huntingdon Area High School. As your child's principal, it is my privilege to work with your learners at HAHS, helping them to grow academically and to acquire all of the skills that they need to become college and career ready. Our staff is working hard to make this a productive and challenging school year for your learner. Please review the information below that highlight important information to start the year, coming dates including Freshmen/New Learner Orientation, Open House, and the Rachel's Challenge Community Night, as well as key areas of focus for the school year. As we approach the start of the year, we are sharing information below to ensure that everyone is updated with the most current information. We appreciate your time in reviewing this information with your learner and family.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL/START OF YEAR INFORMATION

- Classes begin on **Thursday, August 22, 2019.**
- On the opening day of school, learners may enter the school through the main entrance at 7:30 am. Upon entering the building, learners should report to the **cafeteria** and/or the **auditorium lobby**. The bell to report to homeroom will ring at 7:45 am, and learners must be in their assigned homerooms by 7:48 am.
- Homeroom assignments will be listed in The Daily News "Back-to-School Issue."
- The school day will end at the usual time of 2:45 pm.
- Your child's schedule for the 2019-2020 school year will be released within the coming week. **Learners will be notified via Skyward when the schedules are released.** Please carefully review the schedule and note that schedules were developed in the Spring to ensure that each learner has at least 6.0 credits, but not more than 7.0 credits, to align with post-secondary choices. Your learner will be eating lunch during the 4th period time frame. The 2019-2020 Scheduling Packet is posted on our website at <http://www.huntsd.org>. Click on "High School," then "HS Guidance" to proceed to the specific page where you can find this information. Note that classes will not be dropped to add a study hall.
- The Learner Handbook will be available online at the high school website. Please review the contents of the handbook with your child and return the Handbook Review Sheet, which your learner will receive on the first day of school.

IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS

- **9th Grade and Parent Guardian/New Learner Orientation**
 - Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM - HAHS Auditorium
- **Rachel's Challenge Community Night and Open House**
 - Our annual Open House will be held for parents and learners of all grade levels. This will begin at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 in the HAHS Auditorium
 - Following Open House, the Rachel's Challenge Community Night event will be held at 6:45 pm in the HS Auditorium. Please see the enclosed letter for additional information about Rachel's Challenge.

NEW SCHOOL PERSONNEL

We are pleased to announce that we have one new faculty member, and two employees in new positions, at our High School this year. We are looking forward to working with these individuals as they serve your children.

- Miss Cassandra Book - English Teacher
- Mrs. Sharon Conaway - Environmental Science Teacher
- Mrs. Carol Speck - Library Paraprofessional

In addition, we also have a change in building leadership. Mr. Brent Stoltzfus is the new Assistant Principal at HAHS. Mr. Stoltzfus comes to us from Mifflin County High School, and has seventeen years of teaching experience in varying secondary environments. His knowledge and experience working with youth at the secondary level will be an asset to our school. Please welcome him to our school and community!

In order for your learner to get the most out of school this year, we all need to work together, keeping the lines of communication open between home and school. We will make every effort to keep you informed about class and school activities, and update you regularly regarding your learner's academic progress. Your learner will also benefit from your direct involvement in his/her education, including creating a positive work environment within the home, and reinforcement of school expectations. We will continue to share information about the learning process and the activities involved in helping your learner to develop the skills to become college and career ready, aiming to create the ideal learning experience through a personalized learning environment. Please consider following our school district's social media pages for periodic updates in this regard. Our learners, under the guidance of our staff, are doing great things, and we want to share this information with you!

We hope you and your learner(s) have had a wonderful school year. Please check with your learners daily for news and information about upcoming events scheduled at the High School. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach me at (814)643-1080 ext 2136. We hope to see you at these coming events!

Sincerely,

Travis Lee,
High School Principal

SPECIAL UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

SKYWARD/FAMILY ACCESS USE

Please see the enclosed flyer about the various information that our student information system, Skyward, can provide to your learner and family, including information about grades, notifications, attendance, and food service. **We are strongly encouraging that all families revisit their Skyward Family Access portal, and if one is not set-up, to contact the High School Office.** It is very important that the contact information in Skyward for your family is current and updated. We will update information in the system based upon the information supplied on the emergency cards at the start of the year. We will also be sending home the information that we have in Skyward for your review. We will post information on the website about how to best navigate the Family Access portal.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

There are several updates in regards to learner technology use this year. Learners will continue to utilize iPads as an educational tool. Teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom, and we will continue to strengthen the curriculum and enhance the learning process through an emphasis on the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity), by presenting learning opportunities that reinforce the development of our learners in ways that reach beyond the classroom, and by helping them to become college and career ready. It's important to note that it's not just simply having the technology in a 1:1 environment that is important - it is how the tools are utilized to enhance learning, while also being mindful of the balance with engaging instructional strategies. Additional information about iPads and technology guidelines are explained in the Learner Handbook, but please see the highlights below:

- **iPad Updates**
 - Learners will be permitted to take their iPads home this year if they meet the following criteria: Signed Learner Handbook/AUP form, Signed Off Campus Usage form, and iPad insurance has been purchased. This information will be reviewed with learners during the first week of school.
 - Please refer to the General Rules in the Learner Handbook for additional details about iPad expectations.
- **iPad Insurance**
 - All learners/families wishing to purchase iPad insurance for the 2019-2020 year will have the fees assessed as indicated on the form. There will not be a waiver for previous payments as was offered as a benefit during the previous school year.
- **Cell Phone/Device Update**
 - Learners **will not be permitted to access their cell phones during instructional time.** Learners will be able to use their iPads for educational purposes.
 - Learner devices are to be stored in the designated classroom location or are not to be brought to the classroom.
 - We hope that these new device expectations will help to promote positive and healthy habits as well as proper digital citizenship!

ATTENDANCE UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2018-2019 school year, several changes in regards to attendance were made to align to state regulations. These changes, which were in regards to definitions and procedures for notice of absences, unexcused/unlawful absences, truancy and habitually truant, tardiness, and early releases, will continue to remain in effect, and are outlined in the Learner Handbook. One new change for the 2019-2020 school year is how absences are calculated.

- Learners missing 1-2 periods of the school day will be considered tardy
- Learners that are absent between 3-4 periods will be considered ½ day absent.
- Learners that are absent 5 or more periods will be considered absent for a full day.
- Please note that tardy and early release periods will be totaled toward total days absent, and excessive tardies and absences may result in truancy proceedings.

In addition, please note that learners must be in school by 9:30 am in order to participate in extracurricular contests/practices for that school day.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

A.M. - Buses will enter the H.S. loop starting around 7:25 a.m. Learners will be released from the busses starting at 7:30 a.m. High School learners will proceed to the morning staging areas in the **cafeteria and auditorium lobby**.

Parent-Learner Drop-Off:

Parents may drop-off their son/daughter in front of the High School. It is recommended that the drop-off occurs close to 7:45 a.m. to avoid bus congestion. Please stay in the flow of traffic. Do not pass the busses as they are unloading the learners.

Parent-Learner Pick-Up:

For the safety of our learners, no traffic is permitted to drive through the high school loop at dismissal. Parents may pick up their son/daughter along Cassady Avenue in front of the H.S.

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Dear High School Parents and Guardians:

On Tuesday, August 27, 2019, the High School will be hosting an **Open House** in conjunction with the **Rachel's Challenge Community Event**. Open House will begin at 5:15 pm in the auditorium with a welcome from Mr. Lee. The Rachel's Challenge event will begin at 6:45 pm in the auditorium. The Community Event will provide information to families about Rachel's Challenge, and the information that is shared with learners during an assembly earlier during the school day.

The Rachel's Challenge Community Event introduces Rachel and her story by using her writings and stories from her life. The Community Event shows the profound positive impact we have on those around us. It demonstrates to the listener the power of deliberately reaching out to others to start what Rachel called a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The Community Event encourages participants to examine their own lives in the light of the following 5 challenges.

CHALLENGES:

1. Look for the Best in Others
2. Dream Big
3. Choose Positive Influences
4. Speak with Kindness
5. Start your own Chain Reaction

The Rachel's Challenge Community Event is recommended for seventh grade learners and older. The Middle School will host their Community Event at 6:45 pm on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. You may choose to attend either evening. Childcare will be provided by the HS Student Council and the Key Club in the HS gymnasium for any sibling that is not of the recommended age.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions, and we hope to see you on Tuesday evening, August 27th.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
High School Principal